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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

JAE C. HONG/AF

A man with a face mask walks past a replica of the Statue of Liberty on Monday in Los Angeles.

'It will be when not if'

Fauci remains 'cautiously optimistic' COVID-19 vaccine could be ready by end of year

WASHINGTON — The government's top infectious disease expert told a House committee on Tuesday he believes "it will be when and not if" there will be a COVID-19 vaccine and that he remains "cautiously optimistic" that some will be ready at the end of the year.



Fauci

Dr. Anthony Fauci returned to Capitol Hill at a fraught moment in the nation's pandemic response, with coronavirus cases rising in about half the states and political polarization competing for attention with public health recommendations.

Fauci testified along with the heads of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and a top official at the Department of Health

and Human Services.

Since Fauci's last appearance at a high-profile hearing more than a month ago, the U.S. has been emerging from weeks of stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns. But it's being done in an uneven way, with some states far less cautious than others. A trio of states with Republican governors who are bullish

SEE FAUCI ON PAGE 10

US soldier accused of plot to attack his own unit

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. paratrooper charged with planning a "murderous ambush" on his own unit by sending sensitive details to a satanic neo-Nazi group was serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the Army's Italy-based rapid response force.

Pvt. Ethan Melzer sent details about his overseas unit's locations, movements and security measures to members of an extremist group named Order of the Nine Angles, intending it to be passed on to jihadi terrorists, the U.S. Justice Department said in a statement Monday.

Melzer, who an indictment said operated under the alias Etel Reggad, was charged with conspiring and attempting to murder U.S. nationals, conspiring and attempting to murder service members, providing and attempting to provide material support to terrorists and conspiring to murder and maim in a foreign country.

"We're reacting to it like everyone else," said brigade spokesman Maj. Chris Bradley on Tuesday, after he said officials notified the unit's 3,500 paratroopers of the arrest and indictment.

Since November, Melzer had been assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment of the Vicenza-based brigade, which provides forces to U.S. European, Africa and Central commands.

Army officials arrested the infantryman May 30 at Caserma Ederle, home of U.S. Army Garrison Italy and U.S. Army Africa, Bradley said.

The FBI subsequently arrested him on June 10, the DOJ said in a statement, which praised various government agencies, including the U.S. Army Africa staff judge advocate's office and the brigade, for "outstanding efforts" in thwarting a potential terrorist attack.

SEE PLOT ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Starbucks adds plant-based meat to US menu

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Starbucks is adding plant-based meat to its U.S. menu for the first time.

The Seattle-based coffee chain said Tuesday that a breakfast sandwich made with imitation sausage from Redwood City, Calif.-based Impossible Foods is now available at a majority of its restaurants in the United States. The sandwich comes with egg and cheese and is served on a ciabatta bun.

Starbucks said earlier this year that it would be adding fake meat to its menus around the world as part of an increased effort to reduce its environmental impact. The company has sold plant-based milk alternatives, such as soy milk and oat milk, in the U.S. and elsewhere. But the sausage is its first plant-based food item in the U.S.

In April, it began selling lasagna, pasta and wraps made with

Beyond Meat crumbles in China. It also introduced a Beyond Meat breakfast sandwich in Canada in February. Beyond Meat, which is based in El Segundo, Calif., is the chief competitor to Impossible Foods.

When asked why the company decided to go with an Impossible Foods sausage for the U.S. instead of one from Beyond Meat, Starbucks said that it works with a variety of suppliers from around the globe.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (June 24).....	\$1.11	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9438
Dollar buys (June 24).....	60.8607	Thailand (Baht).....30.90
British pound (June 24).....	\$1.22	Turkey (Lira).....6.8563
Japanese yen (June 24).....	104.00	
South Korean won (June 24).....	1,182.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3775	
British pound.....	\$1.2485	
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3510	
China (Yuan).....	7.0607	
Denmark (Krone).....	6.5778	
Egypt (Pound).....	16.1701	
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	\$1.1330/0.8826	
British pound.....	7.7503	
Hungary (Forint).....	306.89	
Israel (Shekel).....	3.4268	
Japan (Yen).....	106.27	
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3076	
Norway (Krone).....	9.4837	
Philippines (Peso).....	50.12	
Poland (Zloty).....	3.92	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7520	
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3888	
South Korea (Won).....	1,206.56	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	3.25
Discount rate.....	0.25
Federal funds market rate.....	0.06
3-month bill.....	0.14
30-year bond.....	1.46

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

Troops may leave Germany for Indo-Pacific

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Thousands of troops may be redeployed to the Indo-Pacific under a plan to reduce U.S. forces in Germany, according to the White House's national security adviser.

President Donald Trump announced last week his intentions of cutting troop levels in Germany from 34,500 to 25,000. He said the country, where the U.S. has stationed troops since 1945, has shortchanged the United States on trade and defense, and that he will reduce troop numbers "until they pay" more.

The move has been criticized by lawmakers in Germany and in the United States, including members of the Republican Party.

In a commentary published Monday in the Wall Street Journal, national security adviser Robert O'Brien wrote that no official announcement has been made, details of any troop moves remain under development and that military leaders are working on options.

"The Cold War practice of garrisoning large numbers of troops with their families on massive bases in places like Germany is now, in part, obsolete," he wrote. "While air bases and logistics hubs remain important, the Cold War-style garrisoning of troops makes less military and fiscal sense than it did in the 1970s."

Several thousand troops in Germany may be reassigned to other countries in Europe and others may return to the United States. Thousands more may be sent to the Indo-Pacific region, where the U.S. maintains a military presence in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, as well as rotational deployments to spots like Australia, O'Brien wrote.

"In that theater, Americans and allies face the most significant geopolitical challenge since the end of the Cold War," he wrote. Ross Babbage, a former Australian assistant defense secretary, said in a telephone interview Tuesday that the proposal would be welcomed by Australians.

"It's putting meat on the bones

of the [Pacific] pivot announced by [President Barack Obama] back in 2011," he said, referring to a policy of concentrating America's military and diplomatic efforts in the Far East.

"What has been happening is a lot of acceleration to deal with the rise of China and the attendant risks there are of tension and conflict in this region," he said.

There's a need to reinforce the U.S. presence in the region to enhance confidence in the U.S. and western allies generally, Babbage said.

"I don't think we are talking about big numbers in short time but it's reasonable to include Australia on a list of places where people might go," he said, adding that such a move would likely have bipartisan political and public support in Australia.

Moving more troops to Asia makes sense, said Cord Scott, a University of Maryland Global Campus Asia professor who teaches history, film and government on U.S. bases in South Korea.

"More of a direct threat would be toward players or actors here in Asia especially with what's happening, tensions now rising between India and China," he said by phone Tuesday.

A mobile force in the Far East can respond to crisis related to sea territory disputes in the Korean Peninsula, Scott added.

"The economic and military threat is in Asia," he said. "It makes sense to have more troops here in that regard."

However, Robert Dujarric, codirector of the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies at Temple University in Tokyo, said the move is a bad idea that's part of the president's ongoing war against institutions, such as NATO, that he views as anti-American.

"Withdrawal of troops from Germany has nothing to do with helping defend Asia," Dujarric said by phone Tuesday. "Trump has a problem with NATO."

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Musumoto contributed to this report. robson.seth@stripes.com
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CHARLES ROSEMOND/U.S. Army

Soldiers with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade march at Katterbach Army Airfield in Ansbach, Germany, in July 2019. Thousands of troops could redeploy to the Indo-Pacific under a plan to reduce U.S. troops in Germany.

House GOP urges Trump to not cut troops

By DANIEL FLATLEY

Bloomberg

Six Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee are urging President Donald Trump to reconsider his plan to cut the number of U.S. troops in Germany, arguing that the move would harm national security and weaken the deterrent to Russia and China.

In a letter to the president, the lawmakers said Russian troops invaded Ukraine and annexed the Crimean Peninsula after President Barack Obama withdrew some U.S. troops from Germany in 2012. They warned Trump against taking any action that would give Russia reason to question the U.S. commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"The U.S. forward presence in Germany serves as a cornerstone of NATO's deterrent against Russian aggression," said the lawmakers, led by Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the committee's top Republican, and Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill. "This is not the time to take any action that might cause the Putin regime to question the credibility of the NATO deterrent or might lead our NATO

allies and partners to doubt the U.S. commitment to our collective security."

Trump announced the planned withdrawal earlier this month.

The GOP lawmakers wrote to Trump that the U.S. presence in Germany serves as a hub for operations in the Middle East and Africa and that an Army hospital there treats American troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. They said the U.S. troops serve as a deterrent to China and Russia and expressed dismay that U.S. allies weren't consulted about the potential withdrawal.

While the lawmakers commended Trump for trying to get NATO allies to spend more on defense, they said withdrawing troops from Germany would harm the effort.

"We fear this partial U.S. withdrawal from Germany will fail to convince Berlin to spend more, while putting U.S. strategic interests at risk," they wrote.

In addition to McCaul and Kinzinger, the other signatories to the letter are Reps. Ann Wagner of Missouri, Joe Wilson of South Carolina, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and John Curtis of Utah.

Workers go on strike against major Navy shipbuilder

By DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

BATH, Maine — More than 4,000 shipbuilders went on strike against Bath Iron Works Monday, disrupting production at one of the Navy's biggest shipbuilders at a time of growing threats around the world.

Angry production workers voted overwhelmingly for the first strike in 20 years in a contract dispute that focused more on subcontracting, seniority and work rules than on wages and benefits.

"These are things that are meant to bust the union, and we can't let that stand," Mike Weaverley, an outside machinist, said Monday on the picket line. "It's not really about the money."

Workers wearing brightly colored T-shirts formed pickets at both of the shipyard entrances along the Kennebec River. On the back of the shirts were the words, "Union heroes walk picket lines." The cacophony of cheering workers, honking horns and revving of Harley-Davidson motorcycle engines could be heard from blocks away.

The company's final three-year contract proposal would have given production workers a 3% raise each year. But the shipbuilders' union objected to more than a dozen changes it considered to be concessions — especially the hiring of subcontractors.

Machinists Union Local 56, which represents 4,300 workers, presented a united front with 87% of shipbuilders voting in favor of a strike. The last strike, in 2000, lasted 55 days.

The company said production was continuing with salaried personnel and others who reported

to work. The company and union have not discussed returning to the bargaining table, spokesman David Hensch said in an email.

The strike threatens to put the shipyard further behind schedule on delivery of guided-missile destroyers to the Navy at a time of growing competition from China and Russia. Bath Iron Works was already six months behind, partly because of the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

Frustration had been building among workers since the last contract in which the machinists union accepted concessions that

were deemed necessary to win a U.S. Coast Guard contract — and save shipbuilding jobs.

Bath Iron Works lost that contract to another shipyard in 2016. It also lost a competition for Navy frigates in late April.

The shipyard hired 1,800 workers last year and expects to hire 1,000 workers this year, but subcontractors are still needed for the shipyard to get back on schedule, the company says.

Bath Iron Works is one of the Navy's five largest shipbuilders and a major employer in Maine, with 6,800 workers.

MILITARY

Army housing in Europe gets failing marks in survey

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Housing at Army posts in Germany and Italy is “very poor” and in need of significant improvements, the results of a survey of Army families in the United States and overseas show.

Army-owned housing in Stuttgart, Germany, and Vicenza, Italy, ranked 23rd and 24th, respectively, out of 26 sites where residents were asked to respond to questions about the quality of their accommodation and services, a summary published Monday showed.

Services provided in Stuttgart were at “crisis” level, meaning there was a “major problem” at the property and “corrective measures must be taken without delay,” the summary said.

Although the report didn’t specify what the problems were at any of the low-ranking sites, Stuttgart was grappling with a backlog of nearly 2,000 work orders, some dating back to 2018, around the time the survey was conducted in November and December of last year.

The backlog stemmed from an understaffed contractor that was unable to keep up with service requests, officials said in October as U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart launched a surge to fix issues that included broken-down elevators



A duplex on Villagio, U.S. Army Garrison Italy’s on-base housing.

NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

and defective heating systems.

Housing in Vicenza, which is home to U.S. Army Garrison Italy and the 173rd Airborne Brigade, also scored poorly. Like their counterparts in Stuttgart, personnel in Vicenza have been vocal about dissatisfaction with

Army-owned housing over the past year, complaining about everything from mold to slow responses to their requests for repairs or remediation.

Last year, Army garrisons around the world began holding town hall meetings on the state

of family housing after investigations revealed poor living conditions in facilities in the U.S. and overseas.

The housing surveys aim to measure whether progress has been made in fixing issues indicated by residents, and gauge how

families feel about the accommodation the Army provides.

“The action we take from these survey results will be another step to hold ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide a high-quality standard of living and to earn back the trust of our housing residents,” Gen. Gus Perna, Army Materiel Command chief, said in a statement Monday.

Army-owned facilities in Wiesbaden, Rheinland-Pfalz and most housing in Bavaria were rated as “poor” in the survey. Ansbach, in Bavaria, was an exception, getting an average score.

Properties leased by the Army in Italy and Bavaria also got average scores, and leased properties in the Benelux countries were ranked as “good,” which is the highest rating for Army housing in Europe.

Army housing in the Pacific outperformed Europe, with Camp Zama in Japan earning an “outstanding” overall score of 4.29 out of a possible total of five. Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia received the highest marks of any facility, scoring 4.88 out of five. Stuttgart and Vicenza scored 2.92 and 2, respectively.

More than 2,300 households responded to the survey, which was conducted by CEL & Associates Inc.

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House lawmakers want more oversight from NDAA

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers on a House readiness subcommittee want the 2021 defense bill to require the same oversight of hazards in government-owned military housing that is now necessary for base housing run by private companies, committee aides said Monday.

Last year, Congress focused on improving the conditions in military base housing operated by private companies after families described during congressional hearings and in news reports how they had lived in housing that had mold and pest infestations.

On Tuesday, the readiness subpanel of the House Armed Ser-

vices Committee discussed their proposed draft for the House version of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. It included a requirement that there be a report to Congress focused on known environmental hazards in government-owned family housing, including overseas housing, “so that we can get a better look across the department on trends and issues in housing enterprise,” a committee aide said Monday during a call with reporters.

The draft states that government-owned military family housing makes up a small percentage of homes, but it needs to be scrutinized the same as housing on military bases run by private companies.

The report would include a list of government homes that have lead, radon or asbestos, the mitigation plans for making certain homes are safe, and the processes and options for families to refuse to live in an overseas home that contains hazards, according to the readiness subcommittee’s draft document.

The markup also requires the Pentagon to report on how they would create standard of measuring results across the services to evaluate the quality of the housing so the Defense Department can track trends.

In response to several deadly vehicle and aircraft accidents during military training, the readiness subcommittee’s draft requires the Pentagon to report

to Congress on how they will improve the collection and reporting of mishap data.

The Government Accountability Office, a federal watchdog agency, found that the collection of data by the military services is not standardized, making it difficult for the military to analyze data and track trends related to mishaps, according to the draft document.

The required report is so Congress “can better assess how the department’s tracking and learning lessons from individual events to ensure that they don’t happen again in the future,” a committee aide said.

The readiness subcommittee’s draft also touched on the military’s continued problem finding

an alternative to the firefighting foam that contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, otherwise known as PFAS, which is a synthetic chemical that can contaminate drinking or ground water. The subcommittee authorized the defense secretary to have a competitive program to award up to \$5 million for research and development of a non-PFAS firefighting chemical.

The draft also requires that any spill or use of PFAS firefighting foam at any military installation be reported to Congress within 48 hours of when the deputy assistant secretary of defense for environment is notified.

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Fort Bragg’s garrison commander relieved of duty amid investigation

By RACHAEL RILEY
The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

Fort Bragg’s garrison commander has been relieved of his command, Fort Bragg officials confirmed in an email Monday in response to a media inquiry.

Col. Phillip Soumia was relieved of the command Friday because of a “loss of trust and confidence in his abilities to command.”

The decision was made by Lt.

Gen. Douglas Gabram, commander of Installation Management Command, and Lt. Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg.

Officials did not say what caused Soumia to be relieved, and said no further information would be released because of “an ongoing investigation.” Justin Mitchell, Fort Bragg’s deputy garrison commander,

will serve as acting commander until a replacement resumes command.

Soumia, who enlisted in the Army in 1989 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1995, was named the garrison commander in May 2019.

He previously served as director of Commander’s Initiatives Group in the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg residents had ex-

pressed concerns about lead paint, mold and the timeliness of repairs in the installation homes before Soumia became the garrison commander.

The concerns continued in August, when Soumia previously said the command saw a trend with eight homes potentially having carbon monoxide issues.

He instructed the installation’s fire and police departments to remove the doors of 88 homes with

designs similar to those in which they found issues.

Soumia also previously said the installation’s Directorate of Public Works expanded from one inspector to include 22 certified home inspectors who inspect homes at state-level standards.

In a February interview with The Fayetteville Observer, he said the installation’s housing partner, Corvias, had fixed most of the issues.

MILITARY



U.S. Army

Guam Army National Guard soldiers return from hooking a slingload to a UH-60 Black Hawk in Saudi Arabia in September.

Combat patches approved for US soldiers serving in Saudi Arabia

Stars and Stripes

American soldiers have been cleared to wear combat patches for serving in Saudi Arabia since September's rebel attack on oil infrastructure there.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville approved the wearing of the shoulder sleeve insignia by soldiers who served in Saudi Arabia during the period beginning Sept. 14, 2019, when a drone and cruise missile attack hit two key Saudi oil facilities, with no set end date.

Soldiers may wear the patch if they received a combat zone tax exclusion and hostile fire or imminent danger pay while deployed to Saudi Arabia during the period, with no time-in-theater requirements, a June 18 memo from the Army's uniform policy branch said.

The patch, worn just below the U.S. flag on the right sleeve of the uniform, has been a symbol of military service since World War I, the Army said in March. It recognizes the personal sacrifice of those who have served in combat zones, a current list of which includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Djibouti.

The attack on the Saudi oil infrastructure came amid escalating U.S.-Iran tensions after the Trump

administration pulled the U.S. out of a nuclear agreement brokered by the Obama administration, and began a maximum pressure campaign to try to get Tehran to engage in new negotiations.

Yemen's Houthi rebels — who U.S. and Saudi officials say are backed by Iran — claimed responsibility for the September attacks, which halved the output of Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper described it as a "significant escalation of violence" by Iran and ordered a buildup of the U.S. presence in the Middle East to deter further aggression. Thousands of troops, air defense missile systems, radar, fighter aircraft squadrons and an air expeditionary wing were sent to Saudi Arabia.

The new Army memo also authorizes soldiers to wear the corresponding combat service identification badge on their service uniforms. Soldiers may use their military orders from the open-ended period as documentation. Retired or former troops may use those documents or discharge paperwork listing an eligible deployment.

Army regulations will be updated to reflect the change, officials said.

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Air Force begins fielding new 9 mm pistol

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has begun fielding the new Sig Sauer 9 mm handgun to security forces units as it begins replacing a pistol model used for the past 35 years.

The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Small Arms Program Office made an initial purchase of about 125,000 Sig Sauer M18 pistols for \$22.1 million, the Air Force said in a statement issued Monday.

The sales price included test ammunition and engineering services, the Air Force said.

The handguns will be made available to all Air Force organizations that have a handgun requirement, the service said.

"The Air Force bought the M9s back in the 1980s, and the design has not really changed since then," said Merrill Adkison, senior



The Sig Sauer M18 pistol.
U.S. Air Force

logistics manager at the Small Arms Program Office.

The M18s are made of polymer, making it much lighter than the all-metal M9 handguns, Adkison said. The new pistol offers a more consistent trigger pull and adjustable grips to fit any size hand, he said.

It had become increasingly difficult for the Air Force to sustain the older technology of the M9s, he said.

In 2017, the Army chose the Sig

Sauer M17 and M18 pistols as replacements for its M9 9-mm pistol, which it had adopted in 1985.

In making its choice of a new handgun, the Army had adopted a modular handgun system first developed by the Air Force Security Forces Center. The Air Force said in the statement.

"The USAF Small Arms program office has worked with the Army to get these new weapons on contract and in the hands of the warfighters," said Brian Lautzenheiser, lead program manager in the Small Arms Center. "We are a small team with a lot going on as we work to procure and sustain all small arms from pistols to .50 caliber ground-mounted machine guns."

The delivery of M18s to all air men is expected to be completed by August 2022, the Air Force said.

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House panel's NDAA proposal: 3% pay increase

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A key House subcommittee plans to give U.S. troops a 3% pay boost next year as the lower chamber of Congress drafts portions of its 2021 version of the bill that sets Pentagon policy and spending priorities, congressional staffers said Monday.

The personnel subpanel for the House Armed Services Committee included the pay raise in a draft of its portion of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act unveiled Monday, a day before the group votes on it. The proposed pay increase matches the one requested by the White House and the raise called for the Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the NDAA, which lawmakers hope to pass by Sept. 30, the last day of fiscal year 2020.

This week, House Armed Services Committee members began crafting their version of the 2021 NDAA in six subpanel hearings Monday and Tuesday. The committee is expected to finalize and vote on its version to be considered by the full House on July 1. The Senate Armed Services Committee sent its version of the \$740 billion bill to the full Senate on June 11. Lawmakers from both chambers later this year will hold a conference to negotiate the final version of the 2021 NDAA.

If approved, the pay raise would go into effect in January, marking the second consecutive year of an at least 3% increase for troops, who received a 3.1% boost last year. It would be the first time service members saw a back-to-back 3% pay raise in about a decade. Other provisions in the House subpanel's bill mark up income measures meant to ease life for troops, protect sexual-assault victims, and help the military resolve diversity issues in its ranks.

The draft would allow the defense secretary to pay a basic needs allowance to certain low-income service members, provide 24-hour child care services at some military installations that require overnight shift work, and require the defense secretary to conduct a study on the performance of on-post schools run by Department of Defense Education Activity.

The bill would require the establishment of a new task force with military and civilian personnel to study domestic violence, which a committee aide on Monday described as increasing recently in the civilian and military realms.

The bill would also include a so-called "safe to report" policy,

which would protect sexual-assault victims from facing punishment over minor misconduct, which experts have said often stops them from pursuing cases against their abusers. The language does not define what misconduct would be included in the provision, leaving that decision to the defense secretary. In past attempts to include such measures in legislation, lawmakers have defined such infractions as things such as underage drinking or breaking curfew. The Senate Armed Services Committee did not include a "safe to report" measure in its version of the bill, drawing scrutiny from several Democratic members of the committee.

The House Armed Services Committee subpanel's draft would also include new measures meant to help the Pentagon fight extremism in its ranks, including a requirement that the Defense Department track investigations into supremacist, extremist and criminal-gang activity in its ranks and submit an annual report on those issues to Congress.

The draft of the bill would require the defense secretary to submit an annual report summarizing the gender and race makeup of officers recommended for promotion to O-4 — lieutenant commander in the Navy and major in the other services — and all higher ranks. Defense officials have acknowledged recently that systemic issues for minorities exist within its ranks. Among them, black officers are promoted to the O-3 level at about the same frequency as their white comrades, but significantly fewer African Americans achieve O-4 or higher.

The House personnel subcommittee's draft would also require the Pentagon to submit to Congress a detailed report on Space Force's overall structure. Lawmakers want to know precisely how many troops are to fill out the new service, including how many in each rank and the jobs they will perform.

The subpanel was expected to approve its draft in a hearing Tuesday afternoon. The measures will then be considered by the full House Armed Services Committee next week. The NDAA must be passed and signed into law by Sept. 30 to provide the Pentagon an on-time annual budget. The bill last year was not signed into law until December as lawmakers quarreled over the inclusion of funding for President Donald Trump's wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

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MILITARY

Officials lodge complaints over Okinawa hazmat fire

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Japanese officials said they lodged complaints with the U.S. military Tuesday, one day after a fire tore through a hazardous materials warehouse on Kadena and released chlorine gas into the air.

The blaze raged from about 9 a.m. until mid-afternoon Monday and dozens of base workers were treated for exposure to the gas and smoke. It destroyed the 18th Wing Hazardous Materials Pharmacy, a warehouse south of Kadena's airfield in the central part of the base.

On Tuesday morning, a strong chemical smell hung in the air as firefighters stood among debris in what remained of the charred building, a hose at the ready in case of a flareup.

Chemicals, including calcium hypochlorite, were stored there, according to a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau who spoke by phone with Stars and Stripes on Tuesday evening. The bureau represents Japan's Ministry of Defense on the island.

The spokesman said the bureau was told by the wing that water



A hazardous materials building at Kadena Air Base is inspected the day after it caught fire.

used on the fire was contained within the base. He said Kadena's environmental department is monitoring the area.

Earlier in the day, Defense Minister Taro Kono criticized the U.S. military for not sharing information with the Japanese government in a timely manner while the fire burned at the home of the Air Force's 18th Wing.

"I believe that during this fire incident, the U.S. military did not inform the Japanese side properly," he told reporters in Tokyo. "I directed [my staff] to tell the U.S. military to share information promptly and rapidly."

Kono said the blaze's cause is still under investigation, adding he was barred from saying more, unless it was agreed upon by representatives from both nations.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki expressed dismay about the incident.

"The fire with the chlorine gas particles caused huge concerns for the residents around the base as well as the people of Okinawa," he told reporters Monday evening, according to the Okinawa Times. "It is very regrettable."

Kadena officials asked Stars and Stripes to submit queries about the fire but they did not respond



PHOTOS BY MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Firefighters survey damage to a hazardous materials building at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Tuesday.

to questions Monday or Tuesday. On Tuesday morning, an 18th Wing spokesman said a press release updating the public about the incident would be issued sometime that day. The release was later moved to Wednesday.

The fire began around 8:40 a.m. Monday, the wing said. Thick plumes of smoke smothered areas near the fire and closed off roads as firefighters worked to get it under control.

At just after 2 p.m., Kadena officials said on Facebook that the fire was contained but chlorine gas had been "released." They canceled routine care at Kadena medical

facilities and encouraged anyone experiencing breathing or vision problems to seek treatment.

"Approximately 45 individuals" were "affected by smoke and/or chlorine gas," the wing announced on Monday evening. Most suffered "mild symptoms" and were treated and returned to duty.

The defense bureau spokesman said none of those individuals were Japanese, and no injuries from chlorine gas were reported by Kadena town residents.

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Disney in Japan to reopen, but will be off-limits to US troops

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Tokyo Disneyland and DisneySea in Chiba prefecture, Japan, will reopen on July 1 after being closed four months due to the coronavirus outbreak, the parks' operator announced Tuesday.

"Health and safety of the guests and the casts will be our first priority when we resume operation of both parks," said an Oriental Land statement posted on its website.

However, the Japanese versions of "the happiest place on Earth" will be off-limits initially to U.S. military personnel, De-

fense Department civilian employees and contractors, as well as their family members. A public health emergency declared by U.S. Forces Japan in April remains in effect until July 14, along with restrictions imposed at U.S. bases in and around Tokyo.

Although individual commanders at Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy bases in the Tokyo metro area have relaxed some restrictions under the emergency, leisure travel to Tokyo and Chiba prefecture to the east remains prohibited. U.S. personnel may move around only in their local areas, the prefectures in which they live and work

or, in some cases, an adjacent prefecture. Chiba does not fall into those categories.

The parks will implement measures to ensure their visitors' safety, such as limiting the number of visitors entering the park, on rides, and in shops and restaurants inside the park, Oriental Land's statement said. Some rides and facilities may be closed.

Visitors also must buy fixed-date tickets online prior to visiting the park, it stated.

Visitors will be asked to cooperate in temperature screening before entering the parks and to wear face masks. They also must practice social distancing and disinfect their hands.

The Japanese government lifted its state of emergency on May 25 and theme parks gradually resumed operation. Universal Studios Japan in Osaka reopened earlier this month, while Tokyo Disneyland and DisneySea remained closed.

Restrictions placed by the Japanese government on travel between prefectures was completely lifted nationwide on Friday. The country had reported 17,968 total infections and 955 deaths as of Monday, according to Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

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Plot: Soldier disclosed his unit's location and security arrangements

FROM FRONT PAGE

"As the indictment lays out, Ethan Melzer plotted a deadly ambush on his fellow soldiers in the service of a diabolical cocktail of ideologies laced with hate and violence," John C. Demers, assistant attorney general for national security, said in the statement.

Melzer, 22, of Louisville, Ky., was "motivated by racism and hatred as he attempted to carry out this ultimate act of betrayal," said Audrey Strauss, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, where the indictment was filed.

FBI agents found Melzer was in possession of Islamic State propaganda that described the attack

and murder of U.S. personnel, the statement said.

The soldier voluntarily told military investigators and the FBI that he had plotted an attack with the intent of killing as many of his fellow soldiers as possible, the DOJ said.

"Melzer also declared himself to be a traitor against the United States and described his conduct as tantamount to treason," the statement said.

Melzer joined the Army in 2018, and the following year joined the Order of the Nine Angles, which has espoused violent, white supremacist, anti-Semitic and satanic beliefs, the statement said. It has expressed admiration for figures such as Adolf Hitler, Osama

bin Laden and other radical Islamic jihadists.

Originating in the United Kingdom several decades ago, the group is "the most extreme Satanist group in the world," the London-based advocacy group Hope Not Hate said in its "State of Hate 2020" report, calling for it to be designated a terrorist group.

It encourages extreme violence, including rape and murder, the report said, and "seeks to harness supernatural forces and overthrow the alleged 'Nazarene/Magian' (Jewish) influence on society, reduce the population of 'mundanes' through acts of extreme barbarism, and usher in a new imperial neon (age) ruled by a race of Satanic supermen who

would colonise the solar system."

Melzer sent encrypted messages to members of the Order of Nine Angles, disclosing his unit's location and security arrangements, after he and other members of the unit were told in April that they would deploy from Italy to guard a military base in an unnamed foreign country, the indictment said.

"Melzer and his co-conspirators planned what they referred to as a 'jihad attack' during the deployment, with the objective of causing a 'mass casualty' event victimizing his fellow service members," the statement said.

"Melzer acknowledged in electronic communications that he could be killed during the attack,

and, describing his willingness to die, wrote 'who gives a [expletive] ... it would be another war ... I would've died successfully ... [because] another 10 year war in the Middle East would definitely leave a mark,'" the statement said.

He also passed on information to a purported member of the terrorist organization al-Qaida, including a promise to pass on more information once he was deployed overseas, the statement said.

The charges carry a maximum jail sentence of 20 years.

Stars and Stripes reporters Nancy Montgomery and Chad Garland contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Bolton memoir shows Trump's frustrations with Afghan War

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Donald Trump viewed a U.S. troop increase in Afghanistan as a failure and sought to withdraw from the country early in his term, former national security adviser John Bolton wrote in a book released to the public Tuesday.

Bolton's book, "The Room Where It Happened," about his 17 months as a member of Trump's Cabinet, has been criticized by Republican officials who have alleged that he is revealing classified information, and by Democratic lawmakers who have chided him for not testifying about Trump's actions before the House during last year's impeachment proceedings.

Trump sought to pull troops from Afghanistan before his second year in office, but was persuaded by then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and others to send more troops, Bolton said.

Trump grew to regret the troop increase, which he said went against his instincts and his campaign promises to withdraw from

"endless wars," Bolton said.

The book recounts a Nov. 8, 2018, conversation in which Trump said to Mattis: "I gave you what you asked for. Unlimited authority, no holds barred. You're losing. You're getting your ass kicked. You failed."

Trump also told advisers that the Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, or MOAB, dropped in eastern Afghanistan in 2017 did not have the effect on the war that he desired, the book said.

U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan have dropped since 2017 to 8,600, as part of a withdrawal deal with the Taliban concluded in February.

As the U.S. worked on its peace agreement, State Department and Pentagon officials often clashed due to leaks, information hoarding and mutual distrust, Bolton said.

During meetings about the deal's progress, Trump called America's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad a "con man," and would often confuse Afghan President Ashraf Ghani with his predecessor, Hamid Karzai, the book said.

Bolton himself opposed negotiations, arguing that there was no way to trust that the Taliban would follow the conditions of the deal.

Andrew Watkins, a senior Afghanistan analyst at International Crisis Group, a nonprofit think tank based in Brussels, said that throughout his career, Bolton has been dismissive of diplomacy with America's adversaries.

"With that in mind, it is not surprising that Bolton's account of talking with the Taliban carries a degree of contempt," Watkins said.

Near the end of the book, Bolton recounted a meeting on Aug. 30, 2019, in which Trump surprised his staff by suggesting he meet with Taliban leaders on U.S. soil. The book describes dread within the White House as staff prepared for the meeting, scheduled to be held at Camp David three days before the anniversary of 9/11. The meeting was canceled after a Taliban attack in Kabul on Sept. 7 killed a U.S. soldier, a Romanian soldier and 10 civilians.

Bolton resigned days later after Trump chided him for negative



NATO

President Donald Trump and then-national security adviser John Bolton give a press conference at the NATO summit in Brussels in July 2018.

press coverage on Afghanistan and the fallout of the canceled Camp David meeting, the book said.

"The long, tortured history of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is on full display in Bolton's memoir," retired Adm. James Stavridis said in an email Monday night after reading passages of the book, which was distributed to select media outlets in advance.

Confusion between agencies is not unique to the Trump administration, but the book reveals key aspects of how the president approached Afghanistan, said Stavridis, who, as NATO's supreme commander from 2009 to 2013, oversaw operations there.

"The President's confusion over who is leading Afghanistan, his tendency to jump erratically from topic-to-topic without resolution and his overarching desire

to simply get out (a tactical and strategic mistake) are on full display," Stavridis said.

The White House sued unsuccessfully to prevent the book's release. Trump said on Twitter that Bolton "broke the law by releasing Classified Information (in massive amounts)" in his book.

The tweets came after a federal judge said publication of the memoir could continue, as thousands of copies had already been distributed online, The New York Times reported Saturday.

The judge suggested that Bolton is at risk of prosecution and forfeiting his \$2 million advance for the book due to going forward with its publication before completion of a review to scrub classified information, the report said.

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PACIFIC

Honoring Korean War vets

Daughter of South Korean immigrants maps memorials for the forgotten war

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Hannah Kim has met 1,200 Korean War heroes and visited memorials in all 50 states as well as those in U.S. territories and foreign countries that participated in the conflict.

"Many people ask me how I ended up being almost obsessed with Korean War veterans," Kim, 37, of Washington, D.C., said in a recent telephone interview.

As the daughter of South Korean immigrants, her interest was sparked by a visit to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington as a 22-year-old graduate student in 2007.

"It's extremely humbling," she said of her trip to the memorial, which features 19 sculptures of troops from all four service branches standing, as if on patrol through a Korean rice paddy.

"For some reason it really struck me," Kim said. "That's where I fell in love with these veterans."

Kim felt embarrassed that she knew almost nothing about the war at the time, she said.

"More than 36,000 Americans died," she said. "I wanted to do something to honor them."

In 2008, she campaigned to make July 27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, which was established by President Barack Obama in 2009.

"The reason why I'm free and why South Koreans and Koreans around the world are free is 100 percent because of the sacrifices of the veterans," she said.

Kim, who describes herself as "a child of an immigrant family from a war-torn country," said she wants to collect veterans' stories before it's too late.

Her travels have taken her to 180 Korean War memorials including those in all 50 states and U.S. overseas territories. She's mapped the memorials on a website koreanwar memorials.com.

Kim estimates she has met 1,200 veterans.

"They're extremely proud but at the same time they hope the entire peninsula would be free and the Korean people united," she said.

She's traveled to all of the countries that participated in the war including Russia, China and North Korea.

"What's important is to honor the veterans and remember them," she said.



Hannah Kim

Hannah Kim is seen with Korean War veteran and former congressman Charlie Rangel at the New York Korean War Veterans Memorial.

‘The reason why I'm free and why South Koreans and Koreans around the world are free is 100 percent because of the sacrifices of the veterans.’

Hannah Kim

Korean War at 70

This is the second in a three-part series commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. Coming:

Thursday: Korean War vets share their memories

Online: stripes.com/korea70

Stories about veterans focus on the past but the Korean War has never ended, she said.

Hostilities ended in an armistice signed by the combatants in July 27, 1953, but there has never been a formal peace treaty.

"Every veteran knows they were called to service or they volunteered for the cause of freedom," she said. "Every veteran will tell you war should never happen, and we need to work harder for peace."

World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veteran William Weber, 95, served on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Advisory Board and was president of the Korean War Vet-

erans Memorial Foundation. He said he had worked with Kim on projects involving veterans.

"She's a very personable young lady," he said in a recent telephone interview. "Her heart is in the right place. She has a very strong feeling for Korean War vets."

Kim spent several years working as communications director and chief of staff for Korean War veteran and former congressman Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y.

Soon after she started in his office, Kim approached Rangel, seeking help working with other veterans.

"She hoped she could spend some time working with Korean veterans," he said in a telephone

interview June 4. "That was exciting for me because you could never do enough to thank veterans of the forgotten war."

Rangel said Kim's visits to veterans brought them a sense of joy.

"There's no Korean veteran that I know of that hasn't found this lady to be a remarkable representative of the love and affection that Korean Americans have for those who sacrificed themselves in the Korean War," he said.

Big events had been planned for the war's 70th anniversary on Friday but the coronavirus stopped that from happening. That's sad for the veterans, Kim said.

"They are all nearing 90 and

many are in quarantine," she said. "Probably half of the veterans live alone. Their spouses have passed on and they look forward to these gatherings and meeting of old comrades."

People should use the anniversary of the war to reflect on veterans' service and continue their legacy, she said.

"We need to still remember to fight for the peace because the war never ended," she said.

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Smaller ceremony marks Battle of Okinawa's 75th anniversary

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa on Tuesday with a scaled-down, pandemic version of the annual Inei no Hi ceremony that drew less than a tenth of the attendees of years past.

About 200 people wearing face masks

and maintaining social distance to ward off the coronavirus gathered at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park in Itoman. No U.S. military members or government representatives attended, and Japanese VIPs like Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered their remarks via recorded video message.

The general public was told to stay home, though handfuls of locals who lost family in the battle during the final stages of World

War II did turn out to pay their respects.

"It has been 75 years since the war has ended; however, the sorrow from losing beloved friends and family has never healed, it has only got stronger," Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki said in his opening remarks. "It is our duty to keep sending the message of the terror of war and the importance of peace to the world."

The Battle of Okinawa began on April 1,

1945, and lasted 82 days. More than 14,000 Americans, about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians were killed during or after the fighting, though the total number of civilian deaths may never be known.

The battle rendered large swaths of Okinawa a scorched hellscape, more closely resembling the surface of the moon than

SEE BATTLE ON PAGE 9

PACIFIC

Battle: About 180,000 US Marines, Army soldiers fought on Okinawa

FROM PAGE 8

the tropical landscape it is today. Reverberations are still evident in the island's passionate anti-war movement.

For the allies, the battle was pivotal. From airfields on Okinawa, U.S. troops began their final assault on the Japanese homeland. The war ended, however, with atomic bombings several months after the Battle of Okinawa.

The program for this year's ceremony remained mostly the same as in prior years. Local officials, dressed in black funeral attire, sat in the Okinawa heat, underneath expansive white sunshades, flanked by food offerings for the deceased. A select group, including Tamaki, gave speeches. Then they each offered a single white flower at center stage.

Tamaki, elected in 2018 on an anti-base platform, used his remarks to highlight the number of U.S. military forces on the island. Okinawa, an area roughly the same size as metropolitan Tokyo, hosts approximately half of the 50,000 troops stationed in Japan.

"There are accidents and crime cases caused by the U.S. force personnel and civilian personnel, noise from the military airplanes, water contamination from the PFOS affecting the everyday life of people of Okinawa," he said.

Abe vowed in his remarks to reduce Okinawa's "huge burden" and to support the rebuilding of Shuri Castle, which burned

down in October. The landmark was a key-stone in the Japanese line of defense and fell on June 1, 1945, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

"Over 200,000 innocent people were killed during the war and beautiful ocean and forest was also destroyed," he said via video message. "My heart is heavy thinking of those lost lives — young people with dreams and future and the parents that died worrying about their children ... we must pay the deepest respect for those lost lives."

Tamaki asked everyone who could not be at Tuesday's ceremony due to the coronavirus to pause at noon for a minute of silence. Marine officials said that they would be observing the request at bases across the island Tuesday.

"This battle was the largest amphibious assault undertaken by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in the Pacific theater and signaled the end of the massive island-hopping campaign by U.S. military forces," III Marine Expeditionary Force commander Lt. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III said in a statement to the force Monday on Facebook.

"The harrowing battle that ensued was among the fiercest of the war. We owe those who struggled on this soil, military and civilian, especially the Okinawan people who endured so much during the battle, a great debt of gratitude."

Four U.S. Army divisions and two Marine Corps divisions, a total of about 180,000 troops, fought on Okinawa.



Aya Ichinashi/Stars and Stripes

A woman prays for loved ones lost in the Battle of Okinawa during the annual Irei no Hi ceremony at Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan, on June 23, 2019. This year's ceremony was scaled down because of coronavirus concerns.

Army Col. Theodore White, commander of the 10th Support Group headquartered on Torii Station, said the alliance between Japan and the U.S. is the strongest in the region and can be traced back to an end of hostilities on Okinawa on June 22, 1945.

"So much has changed in the 75 years since the last shots fired in anger occurred on this island," White said in a statement emailed to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

"The strength of the relationship between the United States and Japan is a testament to the unifying principles driven

by our common goal — peace and prosperity," he said. "We were bitter enemies that waged a brutal battle leaving scars on this island still visible today and while time will heal the wounds from war, the scars will remain as a reminder what was ... Let us find strength and comfort in our combined commitment to each other for a peaceful and prosperous future."

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STARS AND STRIPES

VIRUS OUTBREAK

The battle is not over: Rising cases seen worldwide

Associated Press

BERLIN — Renewed lockdown measures in a German region where hundreds of coronavirus cases sprang up at a slaughterhouse and news that the world's top-ranked tennis player has also been infected provided a stark reminder to Europeans on Tuesday that the pandemic is far from gone.

Meanwhile, Britain, which has recorded the most coronavirus-related deaths in Europe, pressed on with its easing of the lockdown by confirming that restaurants, bars, hair salons and cinemas can reopen on July 4.

By contrast, Germany was reimposing some lockdown restrictions in North Rhine-Westphalia state after more than 1,550 people have tested positive for the virus at the Toennies slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbrueck and thousands more workers and family members were put into quarantine to try to halt the outbreak.

On Tuesday, North Rhine-Westphalia Gov. Armin Laschet said people in Guetersloh and parts of a neighboring county will now face the same restrictions that Germany saw in March and April, including curbs on social gatherings and bar closures.

"The purpose is to calm the situation, to expand testing to establish whether or not the virus has spread beyond the employees of Toennies," Laschet said.

Laschet expressed frustration



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Medical staff take COVID-19 tests of Toennies employees and their families who are quarantined behind fences in Verl, Germany, on Tuesday.

at the company's handling of the outbreak, saying that authorities had to order Toennies to release the names of its employees.

"The readiness to cooperate could have been greater," he said.

Union officials have blamed poor working and living conditions that migrant workers faced under a loosely regulated subcontractor.

Word of Novak Djokovic's in-

fection again illustrated that there's little room for complacency in doing what's necessary to beat back the disease. The world's number one tennis player, said he and his wife contracted the coronavirus after he played in a series of exhibition matches he organized in Serbia and Croatia with zero social distancing.

The announcement by Djokovic, who stands third in men's tennis history with 17 Grand Slam

titles, has put into question the wisdom of a full-fledged return of tennis, including the U.S. Open in August.

The Serb tennis star is the fourth player to test positive for the illness after participating in the matches held in Belgrade and Zadar, Croatia.

"Unfortunately, this virus is still present, and it is a new reality that we are still learning to cope and live with," Djokovic said

in a statement released Tuesday.

In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a major rollback of lockdown measures that will let millions in England back into pubs, cinemas, churches and hair salons starting July 4. The move came amid strong pressure from businesses to ease social distancing rules.

Although gyms, pools, spas and tattoo parlors will remain shut, Johnson told lawmakers that "our long national hibernation" was coming to an end.

Pubs and restaurants wanted the government to cut its social distancing requirements in half to 3 feet between people indoors, and said many businesses wouldn't be able to survive without the change.

But some scientists worried the move is too hasty, especially since measures like a track-and-trace system to stamp out any outbreaks isn't yet in place.

"This is far too premature," said David King, a former chief scientific adviser to the government. "To come out of (lockdown) too early is extremely risky."

The World Health Organization says the pandemic is still in its ascendancy.

"The epidemic is now peaking or moving toward a peak in a number of large countries," said Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief.

Medicare data: Blacks more likely to be hospitalized for virus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Black people were nearly four times more likely than white people to be hospitalized with COVID-19 among people with Medicare, the government said Monday.

The analysis from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also found that having advanced kidney disease was an even more severe risk indicator for hospitalization than race, ethnicity or being poor.

"It reconfirms long-standing issues around disparities and vulnerable populations," said

Medicare administrator Seema Verma, adding that "race and ethnicity are far from the only story."

Medicare's analysis confirms what The Associated Press and other media organizations have previously reported about African Americans and Latinos bearing the brunt of the pandemic, while adding new details.

The group covered by Medicare is considered the most vulnerable to the virus. Most of its 60 million enrollees are age 65 and older. Also covered are younger people who qualify due to disabilities.

From Jan. 1 to May 16, more than 325,000 Medicare recipients were diagnosed with COVID-19, and nearly 110,000 were hospitalized, according to the analysis of claims data. Medicare spent \$1.9 billion for hospital care, an average of about \$23,000 per case for people enrolled in the traditional fee-for-service part of the program.

The analysis found that: ■ Black people with Medicare were hospitalized at a rate of 465 per 100,000 enrollees, or nearly four times the rate for white people, which was 123 per 100,000.

■ The rate for Hispanic people was 258 per 100,000, or about twice the rate of white people. Asian people were about one-and-a-half times more likely than white people to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

■ There were fewer cases and hospitalizations among Medicare recipients in rural areas, when compared to cities and suburbs.

But all in all, having advanced kidney disease was by far the biggest risk factor, the study found. People whose kidneys have stopped working to the point where they can't live without

dialysis or a transplant had a hospitalization rate of 1,341 per 100,000, or nearly three times higher than the rates for low-income beneficiaries and African Americans.

Verma said this may reflect the fact that people with advanced kidney disease generally also suffer from other medical problems that worsen COVID-19 outcomes, such as diabetes. Patients typically have to travel to a special facility to get dialysis, and the treatment can bring them together with others who may have been exposed.

Fauci: Continued infection risks are still present despite progress toward vaccine

FROM FRONT PAGE

on reopening — Arizona, Florida and Texas — are among those seeing worrisome increases in cases.

Last week, Vice President Mike Pence published an opinion article in The Wall Street Journal saying the administration's efforts have strengthened the nation's ability to counter the virus and should be "a cause for celebration."

Then Trump said at his weekend rally in Tulsa that he had asked administration officials to slow down testing, because too

many positive cases are turning up. Many rallygoers did not wear masks, which was an act of defiance for some against what they have seen as government intrusion. White House officials later tried to walk back Trump's comment on testing, suggesting it wasn't meant to be taken literally.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone of New Jersey said during Tuesday's hearing that Trump's testing comment at the rally "was an extremely reckless action, and unfortunately it continues

the president's pattern of ignoring the advice of his own public health experts."

Fauci has recently warned that the U.S. is still in the first wave of the pandemic and has continued to urge the American public to practice social distancing. And, in a recent ABC News interview, he said political demonstrations such as protests against racial injustice are "risky" to all involved. Asked if that applied to Trump rallies, he said it did.

Fauci continues to recognize widespread testing as critical for catching clusters of COVID-19

cases before they turn into full outbreaks in a given community.

Fauci, who heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was joined by CDC director Dr. Robert Redfield, FDA chief Dr. Stephen Hahn and the head of the U.S. Public Health Service, Adm. Brett Giroir.

Giroir was tapped by the White House to oversee the expansion of coronavirus testing. But he gained notoriety after a whistleblower complaint flagged him for trying to push a malaria drug touted by Trump to treat COVID-19 without conclusive scientific evidence.

The FDA has since withdrawn its emergency use authorization for hydroxychloroquine.

"There have been a lot of unfortunate missteps in the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Pallone said. "As communities across the country ease social distancing guidance and reopen their economies, it is critically important that both the administration and Congress remain focused on containing the spread of the coronavirus and providing the resources and support Americans need during this time of crisis."

NATION



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Anthony Davis of Upper Marlboro, Md., left, speaks to his son Jonathan, 13, as they look at a statue of President Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park, Tuesday, in Washington, with the word "Killer" spray painted on its base. Protesters tried to topple the statue Monday night.

Trump says he'll soon issue order to protect monuments

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday he'll issue an executive order to protect monuments that are coming under new scrutiny as America wrestles with racism during the unrest sparked by the police killing of George Floyd.

Trump has been clear that he opposes the removal of monuments of leaders of the Confederacy or other distasteful aspects of American history.

Commenting as he departed the White House for a trip to Ari-

zona, Trump said, "I will have an executive order very shortly, and all it's really going to do is reinforce what's already there, but in a more uniform way."

At a time of nationwide protests over racial injustice and inequality, Trump has aligned himself squarely on the side of those who argue that the pendulum has swung too far in the direction of eliminating reminders of hated aspects of American history.

Trump had tweeted late Monday that those who tried to topple a statue of President Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park across

the street from the White House faced 10 years in prison under the Veterans Memorial Preservation Act.

"Beware," he tweeted.

Jackson is one of Trump's favorite presidents.

The federal statute Trump cites subjects anyone who willfully injures or destroys, or attempts to injure or destroy, any structure, plaque, statue or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the United States to fines, up to 10 years' imprisonment or both.

Dems denounce GOP police bill, demand talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top Senate Democrats said Tuesday the Republican policing bill is "not salvageable," as they demand negotiations on a new, more bipartisan package with more extensive law enforcement changes and accountability in response to the killing of Black Americans.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer signaled the Democrats intend to block the GOP package, which Democrats say does not go far enough to meet the moment that has galvanized the nation with massive demonstrations over police procedures.

"We don't need to study the problem of police misconduct and violence, we need to solve it," Schumer said on the Senate floor. The Democratic opposition is being backed by the nation's leading civil rights organizations and the lawyer, Benjamin Crump, representing the families of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, two African Americans whose deaths in police interactions sparked worldwide protests over racial bias in policing.

"The Black community is tired of the lip service," Crump said in a statement.

The Republican legislation would create a national database of police use-of-force incidents, restrict police chokeholds and set up new training procedures. It is not as sweeping as a Democratic

proposal, which mandates many of the changes.

The standoff does not end the debate. Democrats are trying to force Republicans to the negotiating table to build a more robust package more aligned with their own bill, set to be approved by the House later this week. The House and Senate versions would ultimately need to be the same to become law.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is pushing ahead with the Justice Act in a test vote Wednesday, but without Democratic backing the bill is not expected to reach the 60-vote threshold needed to advance.

"We're ready to make a law, not just make a point," McConnell said as he opened the Senate on Tuesday. He said Americans "deserve better than a partisan stalemate."

McConnell said, "We'll find out whether our Democratic colleagues share our ambition or whether they chose to duck the issue and leave the country in the lurch."

Schumer and the co-authors of the Democrats' proposed police bill, Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., wrote in a letter to McConnell that the Republican bill is "not salvageable and we need bipartisan talks to get to a constructive starting point."

They called the GOP effort "threadbare and lacking."

Seattle will move to dismantle protest zone, mayor says

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Faced with growing pressure to crack down on an "occupied" protest zone following two weekend shootings, Seattle's mayor said Monday that officials will move to wind down the block-long span of city streets taken over two weeks ago that President Donald Trump asserted is run by "anarchists."

Mayor Jenny Durkan said the violence was distracting from changes sought by thousands of peaceful protesters opposing racial inequity and police brutality. She said at a news conference that the city is working with the community to bring the "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone, or CHOP, to an end and that police soon would move back into the precinct building they had largely abandoned in the area.

Durkan also vowed to address some of the protesters' demands, including investing more in Black communities, reimagin-

ing policing in cooperation with community leaders, and pushing for accountability measures and statewide reform of police unions.

The mayor did not give an immediate timeline for ending the occupation but said "additional steps" would be examined if people don't leave voluntarily. With scores of people camping in a park in the protest zone, Durkan said peaceful demonstrations could continue, but nighttime disorder had to stop.

"The cumulative impacts of the gatherings and protests and the nighttime atmosphere and violence has led to increasingly difficult circumstances for our businesses and residents," Durkan said. "The impacts have increased and the safety has decreased."

A shooting Sunday night was the second in less than 48 hours at the edge of the zone, which is named for the Capitol Hill neighborhood near downtown Seattle and emerged during nationwide protests over the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. The 17-year-old victim



TED S. WARREN/AP

A sign welcomes visitors Monday near an entrance to what has been named the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest zone in Seattle. Mayor Jenny Durkan said Monday that the city is working with the community to bring the CHOP zone to an end.

was shot in the arm and declined to speak with detectives, police said. Gunfire early Saturday left a 19-year-old man dead and another person critically wounded.

was shot in the arm and declined to speak with detectives, police said. Gunfire early Saturday left a 19-year-old man dead and another person critically wounded.

The victims were taken to a hospital by volunteer medics in private cars, and police said they were met by a hostile crowd that prevented them from immediately getting to the scene.

It was not apparent if the shootings had anything to do with the protest — gunfire sometimes occurs in the neighborhood, especially on warm summer nights.

Protesters cordoned off the several-block area near the police's East Precinct after Seattle riot squads unleashed tear gas, pepper spray and flash-bangs on large crowds of mostly peaceful protesters, drawing condemnation from many city leaders and a federal court order temporarily banning the use of the weapons on demonstrators.

After police largely abandoned the building, protesters took over the area. Its existence incensed Trump, who criticized Durkan and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, both Democrats.

NATION

Spate of shootings raises fear of violent summer

By LISA MARIE PANE
AND KATHLEEN POODY
Associated Press

CHICAGO — A spate of shootings over the past several days has law enforcement on edge, with some warning that a turbulent brew of a pandemic, racial unrest, historic surges in gun sales and a rancorous election year could make it an especially deadly summer.

Although mass shootings are down sharply this year, other non-suicidal gun deaths are on pace to exceed last year, according to incidents tracked by the Gun Violence Archive.

That increase came before the start of summer, when there is traditionally a spike during the warmer months as people venture outside more, and before Independence Day, which historically has been one of the deadliest days each year.

Gun experts have said that the statistics reflect an American public increasingly stressed by the coronavirus which has roiled the economy and kept them cooped up at home, deep divisions over justice and policing and the political divisions of a presidential election year.

"There's something going on at the moment, these underlying tensions," said James Densley, professor of law enforcement and criminal justice at Metropolitan State University. "Everyone's been cooped up for so long with the pandemic, and then we had this sort of explosion of anger and grief after George Floyd's killing."

In just the past few days, more than 100 people were wounded in shootings in Chicago, including a 3-year-old boy who was killed



JOHN J. KIM, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

Two people walk past as police guard an SUV wherein a 3-year-old boy was fatally shot while riding in the vehicle with his father outside West Suburban Medical Center on Saturday in Chicago.

while riding in the back seat of a car with his father. Police said the boy's father was the intended victim.

In North Carolina, three people were killed and six were wounded early Monday when unknown gunmen opened fire during an impromptu block party in Charlotte. A birthday party in Syracuse, N.Y., over the weekend was marred by gun violence that wounded nine people.

In Minneapolis, people fled a popular nightlife and retail area as a shooter killed one man and injured 11 others early Sunday.

And for the second time in less than 48 hours, there was a shooting in Seattle's protest zone. A 17-year-old victim was shot late Sunday night in the area known

as CHOP, for "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest," a day after a 19-year-old man was fatally shot and a 33-year-old man critically injured in there.

Densley said the pace of gun violence may be a harbinger of a rough summer ahead.

"You've got people who are frustrated, angry, struggling in life and have been at home during this time processing all this and often processing this alone, maybe with the help with the internet," he said. "Once the door starts to open, there could well be an uptick in violence."

The scattered weekend shootings come as police face a backlash, accused of using excessive force against Blacks and other minorities, and calls to "defund

their departments by shifting money from law enforcement to social services and other community investment.

"If you invest in healing and restorative justice and bring the community to the table to heal and solve its own problems, you will see more and more that you don't need police intervention," said Kofi Ademola, an adult mentor to the anti-violence organization Good Kids Mad City in Chicago.

Millions of dollars which are now funding Chicago's police department could be more effectively fueling programs for mental health, housing, support for victims of gun violence and encouraging the creation or growth of neighborhood businesses, he

said.

"Now is the time to hold them accountable and step up as a people to say we can hold our communities together without more policing," said 20-year-old Jai Simpson, a member of Good Kids Mad City who grew up on the city's South side.

Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown, who took over the department in April, is encouraged by police partnerships with community outreach groups, social services and other government agencies.

"Police can't do it alone," Brown said. "We need partners to be effective and protect this city. We're just asking for a little bit of help now. You give this department a little bit of help and this city will be safer from violent offenders."

There is perhaps one silver lining: This year is on pace to have half as many mass shootings as the record-breaking 2019. A big reason is the "contagion" effect, said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University who, along with The Associated Press and USA Today, has been tracking mass killings back to 2006.

With people focused more on a deadly virus and other woes, mass shootings no longer get the attention that can end up inadvertently spurring such crimes. A similar effect happened in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks, he said.

"We've been distracted. We are no longer obsessing about mass shootings like we were in the past couple of years," Fox said. "The less we have obsessed about it and talked about it and being scared of it, the less we fuel the contagion."

Documents: Mother called children 'zombies' before their deaths

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The case of two kids who were missing for months before they were found dead in rural Idaho has taken another bizarre twist, with new court documents alleging that their mother believed they were zombies and that she was on a mission to rid the world of such creatures.

Police discovered the remains of 17-year-old Tylee Ryan and her 7-year-old brother, Joshua "JJ" Vallow, on June 9 at property belonging to their mother's

new husband. The case gained attention for the couple's doomsday beliefs and the mysterious deaths of their former spouses, and court documents released late last week detail more about the strange worldview that detectives think may have influenced Lori Vallow Daybell and Chad Daybell.

So far, no one has been charged with killing the kids, who had not been seen since September, but the Daybells are behind bars.

Lori Daybell's attorney has indicated that she intends to defend herself against charges of child

abandonment and obstructing an investigation. Chad Daybell has pleaded not guilty to destroying or concealing the children's bodies.

Lori Daybell's longtime best friend, Melanie Gibb, has been cooperating with authorities for months, according to the documents written by Rexburg police Lt. Ron Ball. Gibb is the last known person to have seen JJ alive, according to police, when she was visiting Lori Daybell at her apartment in the small Idaho town last September.

"Gibb reports that when she arrived in Rexburg, Lori Vallow informed her that JJ Vallow had become a 'zombie,'" Ball wrote. "Gibb further reports that the term 'zombie' refers to an individual whose mortal spirit has left their body and that their body is now the host of another spirit. The new spirit in a 'zombie' is always considered a 'dark spirit.'"

It wasn't the first time Gibb said she heard her friend talk about zombies, according to the statement. Gibb said Lori Daybell had called Tylee a zombie in spring

2019 when the teen didn't want to babysit her little brother and that Lori Daybell had first learned the concept from Chad Daybell at the start of that year.

Gibb said the couple believed that when a zombie takes over a person's body, "the person's true spirit goes into limbo" and is stuck there until the host body is physically killed," the court document said. "As such, death of the physical body is seen as the mechanism by which the body's original spirit can be released from limbo."



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WORLD

South Korean activists float leaflets to North amid tensions

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean group launched hundreds of thousands of leaflets by balloon across the border with North Korea overnight, an activist said Tuesday, despite Pyongyang repeatedly warning that it will retaliate against such actions.

Activist Park Sang-hak said his organization floated 20 huge balloons carrying 500,000 leaflets, 2,000 one-dollar bills and small books on North Korea from the border town of Paju Monday night.

Park, formerly a North Korean who fled to South Korea, said in a statement his leafletting is "a struggle for justice for the sake of liberation of" North Koreans.

The move is certain to intensify already high tensions between the Koreas. North Korea recently abruptly raised its rhetoric against South Korean civilian leafletting, destroyed an empty, Seoul-built liaison office on its territory and pushed to resume its psychological warfare against



YANG JI-WOONG, YONHAP/AP

Police officers collect a balloon released by Fighters For Free North Korea, in Hongscheon, South Korea, on Tuesday.

the South.

South Korean officials said they may ask police to investigate

it as a potential safety threat to border residents. Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, issued a separate statement expressing "deep regret" over Park's attempt to send leaflets.

Calling North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "an evil" and his rule "barbarism," Park said he'll keep sending anti-Kim leaflets.

"Though North Korean residents have become modern-day slaves with no basic rights, don't they have the rights to know the truth?" he said.

South Korean officials have vowed to ban leafletting and said they would press charges against Park and other anti-Pyongyang activists for allegedly raising animosities and potentially endangering border residents.

In 2014, North Korean troops opened fire at propaganda balloons flying toward their territory, triggering an exchange of fire that caused no known casualties.

Saudi Arabia to limit hajj

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A Saudi official said Tuesday that the hajj pilgrimage, which usually draws up to 2.5 million Muslims from all over the world, will only see at the most a few thousand pilgrims next month due to concerns over the spread of the coronavirus.

The kingdom's Hajj Minister Muhammad Benteen said a "small and very limited" number of people — even as low as just 1,000 from inside the kingdom — will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage to ensure social distancing and crowd control amid the

global virus outbreak.

"The number, God willing, may be in the thousands. We are in the process of reviewing so it could be 1,000 or less, or a little more," Benteen said in a virtual press conference.

While the decision to drastically curb this year's hajj was largely expected, it remains unprecedented in Saudi Arabia's nearly 90-year history and effectively bars all Muslims from outside the kingdom from traveling there to performing the pilgrimage. The Saudi government waited until just five weeks before the hajj to announce its decision.

Suicide bomber kills 2 at Turkish base in Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya — A suicide bomber detonated inside a Turkish military training base in Somalia's capital and killed two people, police said Tuesday.

It was the first time Turkey's largest overseas military base has been attacked by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group. The Somalia-based group quickly claimed responsibility, according to its Radio al-Furqan affiliate.

Police Capt. Mohamed Hussein

said the attack occurred as new military cadets were doing their morning drills. Col. Ahmednor Abdulle, a Somali military officer, said authorities were investigating how the bomber managed to sneak into the base.

The Turkish Defense Ministry in a statement said a Somali citizen was killed and one other person was wounded. It said no Turkish personnel were hurt.

From The Associated Press

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Small boy safe after thieves ditch stolen car

MO ST. LOUIS — A 4-year-old boy is unharmed and back with his family following a harrowing experience early Monday, when the child was in the back seat of a car stolen at a gas station in St. Louis.

KMOV-TV reported that Diontre Evans was asleep around 12:30 a.m. when his father went inside a Moto Mart and left the child in his gray Pontiac G8. A group of men jumped in the car and drove off.

The car was found parked about five miles from the gas station around 4 a.m., with Diontre safe inside.

Plane makes emergency landing on highway

WA FORKS — A small plane made an emergency landing Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 on the Olympic Peninsula, the Washington State Patrol reported.

According to early reports, the small fixed-wing experimental plane was able to land safely on the road, 8 miles north of Forks. The pilot was uninjured, and was able to maneuver the aircraft off the main roadway so that it was not blocking traffic.

It is unknown if the aircraft suffered mechanical or electrical failure at this time. WSP reported that everyone onboard was safe.

Bridge project leads to historical finds

ME FARMINGTON — A team of archaeologists has unearthed artifacts from the 17th-century Abenaki village along the Sandy River.

Archaeologists from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission are leading an effort that has been underway since the summer of 2018, when the Maine Department of Transportation deemed the bridge connecting Chesterville and Farmington Falls to be in need of replacement.

The team has been surveying the land around the Farmington Falls and Chesterville bridge on Routes 41 and 156 ever since, the Sun Journal reported.

Finding the Abenaki glass trade and shell beads was the most memorable feature of his team's dig, project archaeologist John Mosher said.

County restarts weddings, virtually

IL WAUKEGAN — You can't use the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse not to get married any more — at least not in Lake County.

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court suspended marriages and civil unions in March to protect the health of the public, but it started officiating weddings and civil unions — virtually — on Monday.

The only requirement for the general public is that at least one member of the couple getting married must be a resident of Lake County. All active-duty members of the military are also



Jeff Chu/AP

Getting ahead of traffic

A bicyclist rides on the Embarcadero in San Francisco on Saturday.

eligible.

To have a judge officiate at a virtual wedding, couples must call the county clerk's office to set up an appointment to apply for a marriage license and then visit the clerk of the local circuit court to pay \$10 in cash on the day the license is issued.

City council bans guns on city property

VA ALEXANDRIA — The governing body of northern Virginia's largest city voted unanimously to ban firearms on all public property.

The Alexandria City Council passed the ordinance after a public hearing Saturday. The new law takes effect July 1 and bans firearms and ammunition from all city facilities and parks.

The city had a similar ordinance in the 1990s, but a state law passed in 2002 barred localities from regulating firearms in their facilities. That law was overturned by the General Assembly this year.

Alexandria said that it is the first city Virginia to ban firearms under the new law.

Driver arrested after officer dragged

SD SIOUX FALLS — A juvenile driver is accused of dragging a Sioux Falls police officer who was investigating a reported assault.

The officer found the suspect in a vehicle at about 3 a.m. Saturday, according to police. The

THE CENSUS

11

The number of states where Publix sold a type of salad that has now been recalled. One of the South's largest grocery stores announced that it would be voluntarily recalling a limited quantity of the 11.5-ounce Southwest Chopped Kit. Publix said the problem is that wheat, soy, cashews and coconut might be in some of the salad kits, but aren't listed on the labels. That could cause allergic reactions that could be life-threatening for some people.

suspect tried to flee, but got stuck in traffic.

The officer was trying to turn off the vehicle but the suspect rolled up the driver's side window, trapping the officer's arm and dragging the officer as the vehicle moved forward, officials said.

Police eventually stopped the vehicle and arrested the suspect. Officials said that the officer was not seriously injured.

Fireworks likely led to destructive blaze

NY YONKERS — Fireworks may have started a fire that destroyed a three-story apartment building in Yonkers, injured 12 firefighters and left six families homeless, a fire department official said Sunday.

The Journal News reported that more than 100 firefighters responded to the fire shortly after 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but Deputy Chief Joseph Cintrone of the Yonkers fire department said the blaze was "possibly started by fireworks and poor housekeeping outside." He said fireworks may have ig-

nited rubbish in the backyard.

Cintrone said that no one in the building was injured in the fire, but at least a dozen firefighters suffered non-life-threatening injuries while battling it.

He called the building a total loss and said it might have to be torn down.

State sees rise in gun background checks

FL ST. PETERSBURG — More Floridians are considering buying guns, according to state records that show a dramatic rise in the number of background checks it has processed since the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that Florida processed 30,657 background checks in the week after Floyd's May 25 death, when a police officer pressed his knee against the Black man's neck.

The number of background checks was twice the number for the same period last year.

A week after Floyd's death, June 1, the state processed 8,597 background checks that day, more than four times higher than the first Monday in June last year.

Bea the giraffe gives birth to baby boy

FL TALLAHASSEE — It's a boy for Bea, a giraffe at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay who gave birth Friday.

The Busch Gardens zoological team made the announcement on Sunday, a couple days late, but on an appropriate day: World Giraffe Day.

Bea is a 14-year-old reticulated giraffe, an endangered species with only about 15,000 remaining in the wild, according to park officials. Their numbers have been declining because of hunting and encroaching development.

Bea gave birth twice before, to Binky in 2014 and Amani a year later.

Fight at Olive Garden leaves officer injured

NV HENDERSON — A Henderson police officer suffered minor injuries after responding to an altercation involving a worker at an Olive Garden restaurant.

KVVU-TV reported that the incident happened Sunday afternoon when a man allegedly battered an employee.

Police said officers attempted to take the man into custody, and a struggle occurred.

The suspect and one officer were both taken to a hospital with minor injuries.

From wire reports

FACES

Legend: Grammys supplied secret sauce in new album

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

At the 2020 Grammy Awards, John Legend excitedly walked around with “a special secret,” as he puts it: He had just finished recording a batch of songs and felt like his new album was near done.

Although he performed and won his 11th gramophone at the show, he productively used the week where most of the music industry flocks to Los Angeles to add new flavor to his album.

At the Grammys he met Koffee, who made history when she became the youngest artist to win the best reggae album Grammy, eventually collaborating with her on a song for “Bigger Love,” his seventh album, which was released June 19. And a day before the awards show at the white-hot annual Roc Nation brunch, he sought out rapper Rapsody — who is signed to Jay-Z’s company — and asked her to rap on one of his songs.

Legend said listening to Rapsody’s verse on “Remember Us” brings him to tears, especially when the skilled lyricist name-drops Kobe Bryant, who died on the day of the Grammys, and Nipsey Hussle, who Legend won his most recent Grammy award for their song “Higher.”

“It’s so poetic. It makes me cry. I listen to it sometimes and it makes me tear up,” said Legend, who performed “Higher” at the Grammys in tribute to Hussle alongside DJ

Khaled and others. “I remember how emotional I was the day of the Grammys when Kobe passed away. It was such a crazy time.”

Legend said Rapsody wrote two verses for his song, asking him which he preferred. “This was the one that just immediately hit me. I loved her referring to Kobe and Nipsey and Biggie and some of the other artists we lost, but also some artists that are still with us that made records that were important to us.”

Legend’s album also features collaborations with Jhene Aiko and Gary Clark Jr., while a pack of all-star producers and songwriters also help on the project, including Charlie Puth, Anderson Paak, Ryan Tedder, Ester Dean, Teddy Geiger, Tayla Parx and Raphael Saadiq, who executive produced the album.

Legend, 41, said the some of the songs on “Bigger Love” have a strong and resilient impact in a similar vein of “Higher.” Although he created the album before the coronavirus pandemic and the protests advocating for black lives that have erupted around the world, he said the songs still resonate.

“It wasn’t written in response to exactly what’s happening in this moment, but I feel like it could be a lift for people who are experiencing the uncertainty and the turmoil of this time,” he said. “Some of those songs feel more poignant now than they would have been were we not going through these crises in America.”



REBECCA CABAGE, INVISION/AP

Singer-songwriter John Legend made good use of this year’s Grammy week to line up collaborators for his new album, “Bigger Love,” which was released June 19.

Joel Schumacher, director of '90s Batman films, dies

Joel Schumacher, the eclectic and brazen filmmaker who dressed New York department store windows before shepherding the Brat Pack to the big screen in “St. Elmo’s Fire” and steering the Batman franchise into its most baroque territory in “Batman Forever” and “Batman & Robin,” has died. He was 80.

A representative for Schumacher said the director died Monday in New York after a yearlong battle with cancer.

A native New Yorker, Schumacher was a sensation in the fashion world after attending Parsons School of Design and decorating Henri Bendel’s windows. His entry in film came first as a costume designer. He also penned the screenplays to two musicals: “The Wiz” and “Sparkle.”

He established himself as a filmmaker of great flair, if not often good reviews, in a string of mainstream films in the ‘80s and ‘90s. To the frustration of critics but the delight of audiences, Schumacher favored entertainment over tastefulness — including those infamous Batman and Robin suits with visible nipples — and he did so proudly.

His first hit, “St. Elmo’s Fire,” with Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Emilio Estevez and Ally Sheedy, not only helped make a name for the Brat Pack but made Schumacher in-demand in Hollywood. Next came 1987’s “The Lost Boys,” with Jason Patric, Corey Haim, Kiefer Sutherland and Corey Feldman. A vampire horror comedy, it gave a darker, contemporary view of the perpetual adolescence of “Peter Pan.”

In the mid-’90s, Schumacher inherited the DC universe from Tim Burton. Batman received a garish overhaul that resulted in two of the franchise’s most cartoonish movies in 1995’s “Batman Forever” and 1997’s “Batman & Robin.” The first was a box-office smash but the second fizzled and remains remembered for its infamous suits.

2021 Golden Globes move to Feb. 28

With the COVID-19 pandemic upending Hollywood traditions, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday that next year’s Golden Globe Awards would be held on Feb. 28, the date originally slated for the Oscars.

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler will host for the fourth time at the 78th awards ceremony from the Beverly Hilton. Further information around eligibility, voting and revised nominations will be announced in the coming weeks.

Last week, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that it would push back the date of the 93rd Academy Awards from Feb. 28 to April 25 due to coronavirus concerns.

From wire reports



Schumacher

New this week: BET Awards, Haim, ‘Clemency’

Associated Press

Here’s a collection curated by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists of what’s arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

“Clemency” Alfred Woodard gives a career performance as death row prison warden on the eve of another execution in this shattering drama about the psychological trauma of the job, which began streaming Monday on Hulu. Written and directed by Chinonye Chukwu, “Clemency” was well-reviewed but got unjustly overshadowed by some of the higher profile awards contenders when it was released in December.

“Doctor Sleep: The Director’s Cut” This Danny Torrance-focused sequel to “The Shining” was a little divisive upon release, which wasn’t all that surprising. Anyone who plays with Stanley Kubrick’s iconography is bound to push some buttons. But director Mike Flanagan did manage the impossible task of pleasing both Stephen King and the Kubrick estate. And the film does have some undeniable pleasures, including Rebecca Ferguson’s turn as the villain. His three-hour director’s cut will be available on HBOMax starting Friday.

“Athlete A” Maggie Nichols, aka Athlete A, was the first to bring a sexual abuse allegation against former USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar. More than 500 women would follow. This new Netflix documentary from filmmakers Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk focuses on the survivors, the journalists who broke the story and the failings of the USAG to protect its young athletes from a predator. It’s available Wednesday.

— Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Television

Amid America’s wrenching self-examination of racial attitudes and inequities, BET is touting its annual BET Awards as a much-needed celebration of black excellence in music, film, TV, sports and philanthropy. Actor-comedian Amanda Seales hosts the virtual ceremony airing 8 p.m. EDT Sunday, with performers set to include Alicia Keys, DaBaby, Jennifer Hudson, John Legend, Lil Wayne and Usher. Drake, Megan Thee Stallion and Roddy Ricch are the leading nominees in the music categories, with LeBron James, Serena Williams and Simon Biles among those up for top athlete honors.

Showtime’s “Black Monday” is back to finish up season two after the coronavirus forced a pause in post-production. The comedy, which pivots around the October 1987 worldwide stock market crash that gives the series its name, returns 8 p.m. EDT Sunday with four new weekly episodes starring Don Cheadle, Andrew Rannells and Regina Hall. Viewers who want to refresh their memory of the season’s first six episodes, or just savor anew Cheadle’s powerhouse performance, can head to Showtime’s streaming service.

The late writer Michelle McNamara’s investigation of a serial killer-rapist is explored in HBO’s “I’ll Be Gone in the Dark,” a six-part docuseries debuting 10 p.m. EDT Sunday. McNamara, the wife of comedian Patton Oswalt, had immersed herself in the crimes of the so-called Golden State Killer in the 1970s and ‘80s in California. Her posthumously published book is the basis of the series that includes interviews with detectives, family members of victims and those who survived their attacker. In 2018, a former police officer was arrested in the case — two months after McNamara’s book.

— Television Writer Lynn Elber



Music

Grey Daze: Chester Bennington fans will get to hear the screeching, Grammy-winning rock singer one more time. More than two decades after he left Grey Daze for Linkin Park comes the release of “Amends” (above left), featuring tracks from Grey Daze’s mid-’90s catalog rerecorded last year with Bennington’s remastered vocals. The album comes out Friday, three years after Bennington’s death.

Haim: It’s been three years since sister trio Haim have released a new album. On Friday, they will drop “Women In Music Pt. III” (above right), their third studio release, which finds middle sister Danielle in the co-producer chair (along with frequent collaborators Ariel Rechtshaid and former Vampire Weekend Rostam Batmangli). The album was supposed to be released in April but got pushed back — like most things in the world — because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jessie Ware: English singer Jessie Ware is the sultry love doctor on her fourth album, “What’s Your Pleasure?” The project, originally to be released on Juneteenth, was moved to Friday in deference to the holiday to commemorate the emancipation of slaves in the U.S. Associated Press critic Cristina Jaleru says the album “delivers on every level.”

— Music Editor Mesfin Fekadu

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OPINION

Nuclear micro reactors: A powerful military tool

By NORMAN SEIP
Special to Stars and Stripes

As technological change accelerates, the United States military must undergo a rapid change in priorities as competitor nations rise, counterinsurgency missions wane, and threats grow. From my three decades in the Air Force, I know that our military is global leader in technology, but the rise of new powers using asymmetric technologies could threaten that lead.

Just like the shock from the coronavirus has changed how our American leaders and policymakers view risks from disease and pandemics, we must make sure that a different, though similarly unanticipated, shock does not threaten American military primacy. Today's threats include the rising power of peer competitors like China and Russia, as well as smaller, unpredictable states like Iran or North Korea — which cannot stand on the same battlefield as the American military, and which deploy asymmetric threats to lead devastating damage to American power. I saw how our military performed under fire and quickly developed, then employed the strategies of counterinsurgency in the conflicts of the last two decades; we must work now to ensure that we are prepared for the contests of the 21st century.

Technology in the hands of our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen will determine who wins those wars of the future. The National Defense Strategy, published in 2018, was correct to highlight that "rapid technological advancements and the changing character of war" will drastically alter the global security environment. The specific technologies it highlights as key to winning the wars of the future include: advanced computing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, autonomy, robotics, directed energy and hypersonic weapons.

Air Force missions are at the center stage of these technological advances. In addition to its enduring mission sets, our Air Force along with the new Space Force is laser focused on the protection of the U.S.

homeland, remote control of unmanned aircraft, and maintaining awareness of emerging threats. These rapid advances in technology both enable and threaten these missions. New weapons platforms like electromagnetic railguns, directed energy weapons, drones and networked warfighters will enhance the Air Force's ability to protect the homeland and take the fight to the enemy. However, new threats, particularly from cyber warfare and space, could allow enemies to deny air power to our forces at mission-critical times.

The key enabler of these new technological advances and threats is energy. These technologies all require large amounts of energy and power available at a moment's notice. That means, without new strategic foresight, energy vulnerability for the force will only grow as the energy footprint grows. The Air Force needs innovation in energy and resilience to ensure it is able to meet its mission.

Perhaps the most exciting area of energy innovation that the Air Force can take advantage of is in new, advanced nuclear power. Although the Air Force tested flying nuclear reactors in the 1950s, today's applications would enable continuous on-demand power.

Earlier this year, the Strategic Capabilities Office announced an initiative that will build mobile micro nuclear reactors able to support their deployed forces. These reactors will be designed to provide passively safe, but always available, power to our soldiers. The Air Force can similarly support nuclear power plants that are sized and designed for its missions — fixed, in-place in support of critical warfighting infrastructure like radar, command and control, and base defenses and aircraft.

The Air Force's operations provide key strategic national security resources. Most Air Force bases rely on the local electricity grid for power, with backup provided locally by diesel generators. Increasingly, those energy resources are supplemented by renewable power located on base. While these resources are enough for normal op-

erations, we should be concerned that multilevel crises, including hostile attacks, can compromise mission assurance. We know that America's strategic opponents will directly target these resources in a crisis. Cyber attacks against the electricity grid could cut power at critical times. But, in an international crisis, we know that always-on reactors would add an additional layer of protection.

One example of a micro reactor that could support such operations is an innovative new design by Oklo, a nuclear startup that has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a commercial power permit to build a small, 1.5 megawatt reactor. At only about 15% of the power supplied by current-generation commercial power plants, these small-scale reactors are appropriate for a remote, mobile location. They are purposely designed to be "passively safe" — meaning that there is no possibility of a meltdown. Other companies are pursuing similar-scale designs.

Too often planners have overlooked, in planning and force protection, access to energy. So-called communications networks that will be critical to fighting and winning future wars are extremely energy-intensive; that means winning the wars of the future will require concentrated sources of always-on, assured energy.

The U.S. military has evolved during previous wars, and the next evolution will be taking advantage of American technological leadership in other sectors, whether it be microchips or aircraft design, to ensure our nation's security. Today, we know the Air Force is pursuing technological advances like artificial intelligence or next-generation communications networks. It should also harness the innovations advanced energy that will ensure those capabilities and systems are available when they are needed.

Norman Seip, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant general, is a senior mentor for the Air Force and also serves as Council for a Strong America's chairman of the board. He authored this column on behalf of the American Security Project in his capacity as a board member.

Americans' mask test failure reflects wider concerns

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Sometimes refer to the COVID-19 pandemic as "the great psychosocial test." We are all being put through different kinds of strain, and we have the chance to react for better or worse.

One set of tests has concerned masks. There is increasing evidence that masks stem the spread of the virus, yet the U.S. is not embracing mask-wearing. It is the only major nation that has turned masks into a political issue. That is a psychometric test for this country, and we are failing it.

The next test, I think, will be which institutions can succeed at getting Americans to wear their masks. That in turn will be a test of which institutions Americans truly trust — or are at least willing to defer to.

So far, I don't see which of our public health authorities are going to take that crown. No systematic data are available, but in my home area of Fairfax County, a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., mask-wearing seemed much more common a few weeks ago than it is today. Where I go to work, I see all sorts of people wearing masks, even during my recent West Virginia and Ohio road trip, a region where otherwise mask-wearing was very low.

Of course, compelling workers to wear masks is one thing; asking customers to do so is quite another. AMC movie the-

the general public, are these institutions that have succeeded in doing so on their own patch? One example might come soon from reopening universities. I suspect that mask-wearing will be a sustainable norm only if classes that requires it, if only because the professor can ask non-volunteers to leave. The professors will have an interest in enforcing this policy, and most academics lean left, largely insulating them from the anti-mask rhetoric and behavior of President Trump.

Still, I doubt that it will be possible to enforce the norm of masks wearing in dorms and other common spaces. After all, universities have not succeeded in stamping out drug and alcohol abuse on campus, or for that matter enforcing class attendance.

Another hope on the mask-wearing front is American business and the American workplace. I am not sure that requires it, if only because the person I have seen — and these days that is many — is wearing some kind of mask, even though they are out on the road, away from their bosses, and not usually coming into much close contact with their package-receiving customers.

The other workers I see, such as waiters, retail clerks and delivery drivers, wear masks, even during my recent West Virginia and Ohio road trip, a region where otherwise mask-wearing was very low.

Of course, compelling workers to wear masks is one thing; asking customers to do so is quite another. AMC movie the-

have to wear masks. That will perhaps be the acid test for how much Americans respect businesses as a source of authority, because movie theaters are relatively dark and ushers (to the extent they still exist) may be reluctant to interrupt movies to enforce mask-wearing. It is a common occurrence in stores that customers are rebelling against mask-wearing and store employees are having to enforce the norm, albeit with great difficulties.

For an example of how difficult it is to corral customer behavior, consider one library's account of reopening. The staff, already tasked with extra responsibilities, rapidly became exhausted. And of course, trying to enforce the rules brought them into closer contact with the patrons, creating yet further sources of risk.

The willingness of the Trump administration to discourage and even mock mask-wearing is a clear sign that the public is also reflecting a broader problem with American society, namely a vacuum of trust and moral authority across many domains. As a nation, we desperately need to realize that we are failing this test.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Tyler Cowen is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

OPINION

Anti-statue movement has taken an absurd turn

By HENRY OLSEN

The Washington Post

The United States' frenzy of statutory iconoclasm has taken a turn into the theater of the absurd. Knocking down or defacing statues of American founders or heroes not only displays ignorance of history but also assaults the principles of Western civilization that allow for racial progress to continue.

Destroying statues is often a part of revolutionary movements. Patriots tore down a statue of King George III as the American Revolution gained steam, and those seeking freedom from communism's vile yoke pulled down the monuments to their oppressors, Lenin and Stalin. It's no surprise, therefore, that the protests over the killing of George Floyd have targeted edifices honoring the heroes of the Confederacy. As the Confederacy's vice president, Alexander Stephens, said in his "cornerstone speech," the Confederacy rested on "the great truth, that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery — subordination to the superior race — is his natural and normal condition." Monuments to this revolting sentiment have no place in a United States that is dedicated to the opposite principle — that all men are created equal.

That principle was first politically enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, and it has been America's cornerstone ever since. All reasonable people acknowledge that it has been inconsistently applied throughout our nation's history, but that principle has been the fuel of every movement that brought further emancipation. The early suffragists explicitly appealed to it at the first women's rights meeting, the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. Abraham Lincoln opposed slavery under its banner, and Franklin D. Roosevelt created the New



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

A statue of Theodore Roosevelt on horseback gifted by a Native American man, left, and an African man, right, sits in front of the American Museum of Natural History on Monday in New York. The statue, which was installed in 1940, will be taken down after objections that it symbolized colonial expansion and racial discrimination.

Deal by citing its promise. The greatest speech of the 1960s civil rights revolution, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, is a masterful disquisition on that immortal principle. It is America's gift to the world.

Protesters who tear down statues to brave warriors who fought to more fully implement that principle mock and dishonor the idea that enables us to become a more perfect union. George Washington owned slaves, but he also founded a nation dedicated to the idea whose incompatibility with slavery made its eradication inevitable. Defacing or toppling his monuments dishonors the country. More than any man save Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant destroyed the Confederacy with his magisterial generalship. As president, he tried to extend the Civil War's purpose by presiding over the Reconstruction of the South, an effort that was abandoned only after he left office. Toppling his statue — as protesters did in San Francisco, citing a slave whom Grant was gifted and later freed before the war — is historically ludicrous.

There are those who say that Western civilization itself ought to be undone — that monuments to people such as these ought to be destroyed because of their participation in an endeavor that included global colonialism and racism. This fever has extended elsewhere, as statues to the English sailor Capt. James Cook, the man who brought knowledge of Australia and New Zealand to Europe, have been defaced in both countries by people who believe he paved the way for colonialism and the oppression of indigenous people. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's courage saved the world from Nazi barbarism, but his statue in London has also been vandalized for racist statements he once said. It is he who sober minds must pause and reflect. There is no pure past to which

one can turn for intellectual sustenance if one desires a political regime dedicated to freedom and equality. Just about every pre-modern political regime was predicated upon the idea that its purported superiority justified treating outsiders over whom it ruled as if those people were human beings. Aztecs murdered their war captives as human sacrifices to their gods. Many Black Africans did not see other Black Africans as fellow human beings to be protected against white slave traders; instead, they simply captured them and sold them to profit themselves. Mongol conquest of Russia and China was brutal and tyrannical as the warrior clan ruled on its own and for its own benefit. Almost all civilization has been based on inequality and tyranny regardless of the color of the masters' skin.

Modern Western civilization and its revolutionary ideals, however, have allowed for the peaceful, pan-racial democracies protesters say they want. The West's ideals of universal freedom and human equality permit it to reform itself peacefully and extend the reality of freedom to fit the reality of human diversity. We take a multiethnic, free state for granted, but no such thing had ever existed before modern times. That is the achievement that statutes to people such as Washington and Grant honor, an achievement that makes today's protesters possible.

It is easy to destroy; it is hard to build. The American edifice that imperfect men and women have built over the past two centuries is a solid foundation for the just nation in which we live and seek to improve. We must not burn it down in the vain hope that a better future can emerge from its bonfire.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

What Democrats get wrong about the 2016 election

By MATT BAI

Special to The Washington Post

By any conventional measure — election polls, approval ratings, economic trends, pandemic death rates — President Donald Trump should be headed for a sound beating in November.

Point this out to any nervous liberal, though, and you'll probably hear this rejoinder: "But 2016!" Pervasive thinking on the left and right holds that Trump surged four years ago on a tide of invective support that the pundits completely missed, so of course we're prone to miss it again.

It's a fundamental misreading of what happened in 2016. And the problem with misreading elections is that it makes you more likely to repeat your mistakes.

There's something validating, on both sides, about the idea that the outcome of the 2016 election, this idea that Trump has some kind of magnetic, undetected hold on wide swaths of the American electorate.

Liberal activists have long suspected that a huge part of white, rural America is irredeemably racist and misogynist — that Barack Obama's two concurring election wins were an aberration and social progress mostly an illusion. And Trump supporters love to promote the idea that his following is vast and ascendant. They'd have you believe Trump ignited some kind of powerful ideological movement in the nation's overlooked white communities.

In fact, exit polls from 2016 tell a very different story.

Nationally, a clear majority of voters

four years ago soundly rejected Trump's anti-immigrant agenda and anti-inclusive message. Only 13% said immigration was the most pressing issue in the country. Only 41% bought into his idea of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Fully 70% said Trump's treatment of women bothered them "some" or "a lot." More than 6 in 10 said Trump was unqualified to be president and lacked the right temperament. Clear majorities thought Hillary Clinton met both tests.

So what happened? Well, here's where it gets interesting.

Of the 47% of voters who said Clinton wasn't qualified to serve, only 5% voted for her. That's about what you'd expect. Of the 61% of voters who said the same thing about Trump, however, 17% ignored their judgment and voted for him anyway.

In Florida, where Trump won by just over a single percentage point, more than half the electorate found him unqualified, and yet 16% of those voters cast a ballot for him. In Pennsylvania, where he won by an even slimmer margin, a stunning 21% of voters who said Trump didn't have the right temperament for the job voted to send him to the White House.

In other words, on the night that marked his apex in political life, Trump's margin of victory came from reluctant voters who almost certainly thought they were voting for the losing candidate, and who felt confident he'd make a terrible president.

There was never anything like a groundswell for Trumpism. In fact, the election had strikingly little to do with him at all. It was mostly about the intense emotions

triggered by his opponent. In the end, some critical slice of voters who thought Clinton eminently more qualified for the job couldn't bring themselves to vote for her. And they decided their only option was to take a flyer on a guy who seemed marginally unfit for the job — and destined to lose in any event.

There are myriad explanations for the astounding depth of this anti-Clinton sentiment; let's not relitigate them here. What's clear is that a lot of white voters thought Clinton didn't like them very much — and her describing them as "deplorable" didn't help.

What's happened since? Certainly nothing to suggest that Trump has managed to convert his accidental victory into a burgeoning movement.

The independent voters who narrowly won for Trump in 2016 deserted him almost immediately, once they saw their worst suspicions confirmed. Trump's approval ratings have hovered just over 40% for most of his presidency, which is basically like a football team that goes 6-and-10 every year.

In the only national referendum on Trumpism since 2016 — the midterm cycle two years later — the president's party was resoundingly rejected.

Trump is not Ronald Reagan, standing on the shoulders of a resurgent, mainstream conservatism. He's a fringe figure preaching to a loud minority that can't fill an arena in Oklahoma, a state he won by more than 35 points in 2016. He emboldens an ugly strain of American extremism, but there's no evidence to suggest he has wolv-

len those ranks.

According to everything we know about politics, Trump should lose in November. And he will — unless Democrats, failing to learn the right lessons from 2016, insist on cornering those same disaffected voters into backing him again.

Joe Biden isn't Hillary Clinton. He's a more naturally gifted politician, and whatever his weaknesses, phishiness and glissim have never been among them. I thought Biden would have beaten Trump walking away had been the nominee four years ago.

There's really only one way for Trump to win this election — which is for Democrats to hand him the all-out culture war he desperately wants. Biden and his team are too smart to fall into that trap. But the same might not be said for the party's loudest activists, such as the types who want to abolish police departments and who believe that everyone who voted for Trump is a closet Confederate.

If the fall campaign feels like another condescending, "us vs. them" indictment of the so-called deplorables, then the same people who felt trapped into voting for Trump in 2016 may do it again. And the result, despite all the evidence of his political anemia, could look the same.

To borrow from the philosopher George Santayana: Those who misread elections are often bound to relive them.

Matt Bai, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a nationally known journalist, author and screenwriter.

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Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Signed LHP Garrett Crochet to a minor league contract.

National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Signed SS Ed Howard.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Named both Malik Rose and David Booth Vice President, Basketball Operations.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
DALLAS COWBOYS — Announced QB Dak Prescott signed franchise tender.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed T Colton McKivitz to a four-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed WR Denzel Mims.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Agreed to terms with QB Cole McDonald on a four-year contract.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
PORTLAND TIMBERS — Signed D Zac McGraw to a one-year contract.

National Women's Soccer League
SKY BLUE FC — Signed M Sabrina Flores to a two-year contract. Signed D Chantelle Swaby to a short-term contract for the NWSL Challenge Cup.

Orlando Pride
pull out from
NWSL event

Associated Press

The Orlando Pride have withdrawn from the upcoming National Women's Soccer League tournament after six players and four staff members tested positive for COVID-19.

The NWSL is the first U.S. professional team sport scheduled to return amid the coronavirus pandemic. The month-long Challenge Cup tournament is set to start Saturday in Utah.

Another round of testing will take place to confirm the results, the league said in announcing the positive tests Monday. Because of the number of positive results and the short time before the start of the tournament, the Pride withdrew.

The names of the players and staffers who tested positive were not released.

Among those on the Pride's roster are U.S. national team players Ali Krieger, Ashlyn Harris and Emily Sonnett, as well as Brazilian star Marta.

The players who tested positive were asymptomatic. They will be isolated for 14 days and those they've come in contact with will be monitored.

A person with knowledge of the situation said Monday that a group of Orlando players had not maintained social distancing protocols and went to a bar or nightclub. It is not clear if that was tied to the positive tests. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity but the information was not made public.

Djokovic, wife test
positive for virus

Serb is the fourth tennis player to test positive

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — Novak Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus on Tuesday after taking part in a tennis exhibition series he organized in Serbia and Croatia.

The top-ranked Serb is the fourth player to test positive for the virus after first playing in Belgrade and then again last weekend in Zadar, Croatia. His wife also tested positive.

"The moment we arrived in Belgrade we went to be tested. My result is positive, just as Jelena's, while the results of our children are negative," Djokovic said in a statement.

Djokovic has been criticized for organizing the tournament and bringing in players from other countries amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Viktor Troicki said Tuesday that he and his pregnant wife have both been diagnosed with the virus, while Grigor Dimitrov, a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist from Bulgaria, said Sunday he tested positive. Borna Coric played Dimitrov on Saturday in

Zadar and said Monday he has also tested positive.

There were no social distancing measures observed at the matches in either country and Djokovic and other players were seen hugging each other and partying in night clubs and restaurants after the matches.

"Everything we did in the past month, we did with a pure heart and sincere intentions," Djokovic said. "Our tournament meant to unite and share a message of solidarity and compassion throughout the region."

Djokovic, who has previously said he was against taking a vaccine for the virus even if it became mandatory to travel, was the face behind the Adria Tour, a series of exhibition events that started in the Serbian capital and then moved to Zadar.

He left Croatia after the final was canceled and was tested 6-9 and will be the first of three said Djokovic was showing no symptoms.

Despite the positive test, Djokovic defended the exhibition series.

"It was all born with a philan-



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, center, poses on June 14 with volunteers and players after the Adria Tour charity tournament in Belgrade, Serbia. The top-ranked Serb is the fourth player to test positive for the virus after first playing in Belgrade and then again last weekend in Zadar, Croatia. His wife Jelena also tested positive.

thropic idea, to direct all raised funds towards people in need and it warmed my heart to see how everybody strongly responded to this," Djokovic said. "We organized the tournament at the moment when the virus has weakened, believing that the conditions for hosting the Tour had been met."

"Unfortunately, this virus is

still present, and it is a new reality that we are still learning to cope and live with."

Djokovic said he will remain in self-isolation for 14 days and also apologized to anyone who became infected as a result of the series.

Organizers of the Adria Tour said the third stage of the event, scheduled to held next week in Bosnia, has been canceled.

Briefly

Prescott signs \$31.4 million franchise tender

Wire reports

DALLAS — Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott has officially gone from being the best bargain in the NFL to having the richest one-year contract in franchise history.

That much is guaranteed after Prescott signed the exclusive franchise tender of \$31.4 million on Monday, as had been expected.

Prescott and the Cowboys could still reach a long-term arrangement that would make him the richest player in NFL history; however, such a deal would need to be executed by July 15.

The Cowboys placed the tag on Prescott on March 18. He had refused to sign the tag and boycotted the Cowboys' virtual offseason program, which ended last week, as leverage in continued negotiations.

PGA Championship
confirms no fans

Brooks Koepka will try to become the first player to win the PGA Championship three straight times in stroke play, and there won't be anyone at Harding Park to cheer him on.

The PGA of America confirmed Monday the first major of

this most unusual year won't have spectators.

The PGA Championship, originally scheduled for May 14-17 in San Francisco, now is set for Aug. 6-9 and will be the first of three majors this year. The U.S. Open moved from June to Sept. 17-20 in New York, with the Masters moving to November two weeks before Thanksgiving. The British Open was canceled.

Liberty football players
enter transfer portal

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Three football players at Liberty University say they have entered the transfer portal, with two of them citing "racial insensitivity" by the university's leadership or similar reasons for their decisions.

KeiTrel Clark and Tavynion Land, both sophomore defensive backs, and senior linebacker Waylen Coak all announced their intentions on Twitter. Clark and Land, who are Black, cited racial or cultural concerns with the leadership at the evangelical school.

Nine players, including three on scholarship, have transferred or had their names removed from the roster shortly after players returned to campus on June 1.

FSU president asks
to review name change

The president of Florida State University is asking the school to conduct an internal review amid growing support to change the name of its football stadium.

"I've been following with great interest the petitions circulating on social media that Doak S. Campbell, FSU's president in 1947 during its transition from the Florida State College for Women, resisted integration and asking that his name be removed from the stadium that bears his name," FSU president John Thrasher said in a statement on Twitter.

Top recruit says he'll
stay at Oklahoma State

Cade Cunningham, one of the nation's top basketball recruits, has chosen to remain at Oklahoma State despite the program being banned from the 2021 postseason.

Cunningham won the Naismith High School Trophy given to the nation's best player. He is No. 1 in the Rivals and 247Sports recruiting rankings for his class and No. 2 in the ESPN 100. The 6-foot-7 point guard was the key piece of a class that gave fans hope that

Oklahoma State would return to its past success.

University of Cincinnati
removing Schott's name

The University of Cincinnati is removing Marge Schott's name from its baseball stadium and a library archive in light of her racist comments while owner of the Cincinnati Reds.

The school's board of trustees unanimously approved the move Tuesday, 12 days after a Catholic high school also decided to remove references to Schott from its facilities.

"Marge Schott's record of racism and bigotry stands at odds with our university's core commitment to dignity, equity and inclusion," said school President Neville G. Pinto, who recommended the change.

Mavs guard Lee out
with calf injury

Veteran guard Courtney Lee will be sidelined when the Dallas Mavericks are scheduled to resume organized workouts next week. The Mavericks said Monday night that Lee hurt his left calf during the NBA hiatus.

MLB/COLLEGE BASEBALL

Plan: Owners set July 1 as date to begin training

FROM BACK PAGE

with the 60-game schedule in ballparks without fans if the final arrangements can be put in place, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

MLB asked the union to respond by 5 p.m. EDT Tuesday as to whether players can report to training by July 1 and whether the players' association will agree on the operating manual of health and safety protocols. The schedule would be the shortest since the National League's third season.

Given the need for three days of virus testing and 21 days of workouts, opening day likely would be during the final week of July. MLB already has started to investigate charter flights that could bring players back from Latin America, another person told the AP, also on the condition of anonymity because no announcements were made.

The union announced its rejection, and the vote total was confirmed by a person familiar with that meeting who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the balloting was not made public. The decision likely will provoke what figures to be lengthy and costly litigation over the impact of the coronavirus on the sport, similar to the collusion cases that sent baseball spiraling to a spring training lockout in 1990 and a 7½-month strike in 1994-95 that wiped out the World Series for the first time in nine decades.

It also eliminates a \$25 million postseason players' pool, meaning players will not get paid anything above meal money during the playoffs and World Series, and the clubs' offer to forgive \$3 million in salary advanced to 769 players at the bottom of the salary scale with lower rates of pay while in the minors: \$16,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000 for each of them.

"It's absolute death for this industry to keep acting as it has been. Both sides," Cincinnati pitcher Trevor Bauer tweeted in a rare instance of a player criticizing the union. "We're driving the bus straight off a cliff. How is this good for anyone involved? Covid 19 already presented a lose lose situation and we've somehow found a way to make it worse. Incredible."

Teams lose what would have been a new right to sell advertising patches on uniforms, broadcast enhancements such as having players wear microphones during games and a 2020 suspension of the luxury tax that for a 60-game season projected to save the New York Yankees \$8.5 million, Houston \$3 million, the Los Angeles Dodgers \$434,000 and the Chicago Cubs \$116,000.

More losses what would have been an additional \$60 million to the commissioner's discretionary fund.

The union said in a statement that the "board reaffirmed the players' eagerness to return to work as soon and as safely as possible."

"To that end we anticipate finalizing a comprehensive set of health and safety protocols with Major League Baseball in the coming days, and we await word from the league on the resumption of spring training camps and a proposed 2020 schedule," the union said.

While the framework had included the expanded playoffs for both 2020 and 2021, Manfred offered to drop it from the second season. Players feared it would decrease their future bargaining leverage.

Spring training was suspended on March

12, two weeks ahead of scheduled openers, and the sides have reverted to the familiar financial infighting that fractured the sport in the past. An initial deal March 26 called for players to receive prorated salaries and gave Manfred power to set the schedule, but that agreement did not require MLB to play in ballparks without fans.

Teams sought additional salary concessions, claiming they would lose \$640,000 for each additional regular-season game. The union was skeptical, requested additional documents and said it did not receive enough to evaluate the true financial picture.

Players refused to budge from their insistence on prorated salaries, and MLB finally agreed to that last week during the one-on-one meeting between Manfred and Clark. While Manfred called it a framework for an agreement, Clark said it was merely a proposal and further angered MLB.

At that point, the sides remained about \$275 million apart over weeks of talks. MLB offered 60 games and \$1.48 billion from salaries that originally totaled \$4 billion, plus a \$25 million postseason players' pool. The union wanted 70 games and \$1.73 billion plus a \$50 million pool.

Players are expected to file a grievance, claiming MLB violated a provision in the March agreement requiring both sides to "work in good faith to as soon as is practicable commence play, and complete the fullest 2020 championship season and postseason that is economically feasible," consistent with several provisions. MLB is expected to file a grievance accusing the union of negotiating in bad faith.

Arbitrator Mark Irvings would hear the case. If the union proves a longer schedule had been feasible, each game on the schedule would be worth \$25 million in salary across the 30 teams.



Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle delivers during the fifth inning of a spring training game against the Yankees on March 12 in West Palm Beach, Fla. Spring training was shut down later that day due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Florida State outfielder Elijah Cabell bats against Cincinnati on Feb. 21 in Tallahassee, Fla. If all had gone as he hoped, Cabell and his Florida State teammates would be playing for the College World Series championship this week.

College players find it difficult to stay sharp

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

If all had gone as he hoped, Elijah Cabell and his Florida State teammates would have been playing for the College World Series championship this week.

Instead, Cabell treks to a ballfield in his neighborhood in Winter Park, Fla., most days to work on his game in solitude.

He hits baseballs off a tee into a net. He plays long toss by himself, throwing balls out to a fence until his bucket is empty, picking them up and doing it again. Sometimes his grandpa throws batting practice and they play catch. Other times, guys he grew up with stop by and hit him flyballs and grounders.

"You have to improvise," the Seminoles outfielder said. "That's what I've been doing, staying socially distanced and having fun doing my own thing."

College players across the country have been mostly idle since their seasons abruptly ended in mid-March as the nation began feeling the full impact of COVID-19.

They went home, took their classes online and were left to their own devices for strength and conditioning and baseball training. Though coaches stay in contact and give them programs to follow, players might not get the full benefit because gyms in their hometowns have been closed. Opportunities to get live at-bats or to face live batters are limited because most summer leagues are shut down.

Clemson coach Monte Lee said his staff's primary concern has been figuring out how to reintroduce the rhythm of baseball life to players when they return to campus, hopefully in August.

Players have said they expect fall practices to be more intense and competitive because everyone will be eager to go after the layoff.

Not so fast, Lee said.

Lee has studied how NFL and Major League Baseball teams have prepared their players to return after seasons have been paused because of labor disputes, the closest comparison he can find to the pan-

demic. Ramping up should not be a quick process, Lee said, because dormant players are estimated to expend less than half the energy they normally would each day because of pandemic restrictions keeping them at home.

Lee said Clemson probably will spend eight weeks this fall simply reintroducing the fundamentals of practicing and proceeding slowly in weight training.

"We're basically going to start from ground zero," he said. "We'll make sure they're ready to play baseball before we start playing baseball. Everybody is going to be gung-ho about getting right back in and playing baseball again, but if we do that, I'm afraid we're going to have a spike in injuries."

Meanwhile, some of the nation's top players do their best to stay sharp.

Oregon State second baseman Jake Dukart and his brother, Thomas, who will join the Beavers as an outfielder in the fall, lift and do baseball drills together and their dad throws batting practice at a field near their house.

Minnesota second baseman Zack Raabe works out at a family friend's home gym in Forest Lake, Minn., and has his dad throw BP in a cage set up in another friend's pole barn.

Florida outfielder JD Fabian takes BP in a cage in his family's attic and catches fly balls in a vacant lot behind his house in Ocala, Fla., prompting neighbors to call the Fabians "the sandlot family."

Ohio State pitcher Seth Lonsway splits his time between Columbus and his hometown of Celina, Ohio, and drives to a Cincinnati-area training facility twice a week. He also goes back to his high school to do additional work. Lonsway said the down time is not entirely a negative thing.

"A lot of guys, myself included, save a year of wear and tear on the body," he said. "Pro teams and college teams are looking at it like, 'OK, we missed the whole season, but players can use this time to get their bodies back to 100% and not tear up their bodies like they would in a regular season.' You can attack things you want to work on."

BASKETBALL

Raptors arrive in Florida

Toronto is first team to start preparing for NBA restart next month

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — The Toronto Raptors arrived in southwest Florida on Monday, set to begin their preparations for next month's restart of the NBA season.

If the Raptors return to the NBA Finals, they could be in Florida for nearly four full months.

The reigning NBA champions will start training for the season restart later this week at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, making that school their home base until they head north to the Disney complex near Orlando, Fla., around July 7. They landed in Fort Myers on Monday afternoon, then boarded buses for the team hotel.

Toronto's arrival comes as Florida is dealing with a significant spike in positive coronavirus test results over the past week. The Disney complex, about a 2½-hour drive from the Fort Myers area, is set to play host to both the NBA and MLS next month.

And the Orlando Magic withdrew from the upcoming Na-

tional Women's Soccer League tournament on Monday after six players and four staff members tested positive for COVID-19.

What awaits the Raptors is a different setup than what will be the case for the other 21 NBA teams that will be participating in the restart at Disney. Other teams will be working out at their home facilities, but as the NBA's lone team from outside the U.S., the Raptors would have had some logistical difficulties in having players gather in Toronto to prepare for the trip to Disney.

Under Canadian rules, Raptors players who have been in the U.S. would have had to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to Toronto, so the team decided to hold its pre-camp workouts in the U.S. It'll all take place with very strict rules to keep players safe, with access to workouts strictly limited to essential team personnel.

"In keeping with NBA and team safety protocols, there will be no group workouts during this phase of return to play, and strict protocols have been designed to ensure

this initial level of access will take place in a safe, controlled, and healthy way," the Raptors said in a team statement.

All group workouts and the official start of training camp for the resumed season will occur at Disney. Individual voluntary workouts are resuming this week, and Tuesday is the start of NBA-mandated coronavirus testing for players and essential staff of all 22 of the Disney-bound teams.

The Raptors were 46-18 when the season was halted on March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic. When play resumes July 30, they will hold a three-game lead over Boston in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

If the Raptors were to make the NBA Finals and if that series went the full seven games, they would be playing in Florida as late as Oct. 13, according to the league's current proposed plan for the restarted season. The league and the National Basketball Players Association are working this week to finalize remaining details.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

The Mystics' Nataasha Cloud and her WNBA colleagues continue to be active in the fight against social injustice and police brutality. Cloud has opted not to participate in the WNBA season.

2 Mystics opt out of WNBA season

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Mystics players Nataasha Cloud and LaToya Sanders are opting out of participating in the 2020 WNBA season for the league's reigning champions.

In a social media posting Monday, Cloud cited a desire to "fight on the front lines for social reform," while Sanders explained in a statement issued by the club that taking the season off "is what's best for my health and family."

Their announcements follow those of other WNBA players who have said they won't be a part of plans for a 22-game schedule that would begin in late July in Florida without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jonquel Jones, the star center who helped the Connecticut Sun reach last season's WNBA Finals, is going to sit out because of concerns about the COVID-19 outbreak, while Atlanta Dream guard Renee Montgomery is missing the season to focus on social justice issues.

"There's a lot of factors that led to this decision, but the biggest being that I am more than an athlete. I have a responsibility to myself, to my community, and to my future children to fight for something that is much bigger than myself and the game of basketball," Cloud, Washington's career leader in assists, wrote on social media. "I will instead, continue the fight on the front lines for social reform, because until black lives matter, all lives can't matter."

She added four hashtags to the message, including "#TogetherWeStand," "#Illbeback" and "#2021."

'I have a responsibility to myself, to my community, and to my future children to fight for something that is much bigger than myself and the game of basketball.'

Nataasha Cloud
Mystics player

"We're trying to do our best to make sure we have an action plan for this week, next month, two months from now, six months from now," Cloud said recently. "I hate when they are a fad. Once it fades away, people don't talk about it. This is the life of every black American in this country that doesn't go away."

"We can't take off the color of our skin. ... It's extremely important we use our platform and give back to our people. Do what we can so that change does happen."

Mystics coach and general manager Mike Thibault said the team respects both players' decisions.

Cloud and Sanders each has been with Washington for five seasons.

"Her commitment to social justice issues is of utmost importance to her and, therefore, to the Mystics organization," Thibault said of Cloud. "We will continue to be partners with her and all of our players on their commitment to social justice reform as we go forward into this season and beyond."

Players have until Thursday to opt out of the season.

Wizards' Bertans to sit out restart

By HOWARD FENDRICH AND TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards forward Davis Bertans will skip the Disney-based resumption of the NBA season, making him the first known example of a healthy, eligible player sitting out.

Bertans can become an unrestricted free agent this offseason and is expected to command a big contract as one of the league's top three-point shooters.

Washington general manager Tommy Sheppard told The Associated Press on Monday that Bertans had informed the team of his decision. The Wizards are allowed to sign a replacement player for Bertans as early as Tuesday, and Sheppard said the club "will look at it closely."

Bertans' plan to miss the remaining games was first reported by ESPN.

In his first season with Washington after being acquired from the San Antonio Spurs as part of a three-team deal in July 2019, the 6-foot-10, 225-pound forward from Latvia was averaging 3.7 made threes per game, tied for fourth in the NBA, when play was suspended because of the coronavirus outbreak. He was shooting 42.4% from beyond the arc.

His 200 total threes in 2019-20 rank seventh in the NBA and — in just 54 games — put him 23 from tying Bradley Beal's Wizards franchise record for makes in a season.

The 27-year-old was averaging 15.4 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists as a reserve for Washington when the season was halted in March.

The league intends to resume its season in late July with 22 of 30 teams playing eight games apiece in a "bubble" set up at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando, Fla., before the playoffs begin there in mid-August.

Bertans is in the second season of a \$14.5 million, two-year contract he signed when he was with the Spurs, and based on his \$7 million salary this season, he would be forfeiting around \$600,000 in gross salary for the eight games that he definitely would be missing.

If the Wizards were to reach the playoffs, the total lost salary could rise to as much as approximately \$900,000, depending on how many games Washington plays.

Bertans would be classified as an "excused player," which means he forfeits salary but is not subject



NICK WASS/AP

Wizards forward Davis Bertans will skip the Orlando-based resumption of the NBA season. He is the first known example of a healthy, eligible player sitting out.

to any disciplinary action from the league for choosing not to play.

The National Basketball Players Association and the NBA have been in agreement for some time that any player who does not feel safe being part of the restart would not have to participate.

The Wizards are 24-40 and in ninth place in the Eastern Conference. That puts them 5½ games behind the Orlando Magic, who currently hold the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

But the NBA's format for the restart of the season gives Washington some more playoff hope, because it only will need to shave 1½ games off that gap to reach a play-in series that will determine the No. 8 seed in the East.

Reynolds reported from Miami.

AUTO RACING

Display is a shift from sport's checkered past

Blaney's second consecutive win at Talladega overshadowed by drivers' pre-race show of support for Wallace

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Even in victory, Ryan Blaney thought about what happened to close friend Bubba Wallace over the weekend. And what happened afterward.

Blaney held onto the lead after a restart with two laps to go Monday, earning his second straight win at Talladega Superspeedway on a day that began with NASCAR drivers throwing their support behind Wallace.

"I think it's great that everybody really came together," Blaney said. "I don't want it to be remembered as a terrible day or a bad day in NASCAR."

"I want it to be remembered as there was an incident and we all overcame it together and showed that we're not going to take it any more."

It was that kind of bittersweet day and weekend.

Blaney nipped Ricky Stenhouse Jr. at the finish line by .007 seconds for his fourth win and first since Talladega in October, albeit this time before a mostly empty venue. It was a race marked by support for Wallace instead of another Big One at Talladega, though there was mayhem behind Blaney on the final lap and he also pushed Erik Jones into the wall near the finish.

"Just trying to block, block the best we could," Blaney said. "Block the top, block the bottom ... just beating and banging to the line."

Aric Almirola spun at the end and crossed the line almost backward.

Ford has now won nine of the last 10 Cup races at Talladega, and all three Team Penske drivers have won this season.

The racing was overshadowed by an extraordinary act of solidarity with NASCAR's only Black driver. Dozens of drivers pushed Wallace's car to the front of the field before Monday's race as FBI agents tried to find out who left a noose in his garage stall over the weekend.

He was emotional after spending time in the top five before running short on fuel and finishing 14th, slapping hands with a group of mostly African-American fans.

"I'm proud to stand where I'm at."

This sport is changing," Wallace said. "The deal that happened (Saturday) I wanted to show whoever it was, you are not



Driver Bubba Wallace, left, is overcome with emotion as team owner Richard Petty comforts him as he arrives at his car in the pits Monday at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.



Ryan Blaney celebrates winning Monday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Talladega Superspeedway.

going to take away my smile. I am going to keep on going."

Wallace took the lead for a lap at one point, and Stenhouse said he noticed the fan reaction, along with the chants of "Bubba" at the start.

"I looked at the stands and

watched all the people jump up and cheer," he said. "That was pretty cool."

The stock car series was left reeling and angered by the racist act that came less than two weeks after it banned the Confederate flag on its properties at Wallace's urging. It has vowed to permanently bar the person responsible, but the investigation was in its early stages.

The 26-year-old Wallace was surrounded by all 39 other drivers in the moments before the race and they were joined by their crews in a march down pit road as they pushed his No. 43 to the front of the line. Wallace climbed out of his car and wept.

It was a stirring move to support Wallace at a track in the heart of the South where Confederate flags have flown for decades and were seen outside the superspeedway all weekend long.

Standing alongside Wallace for the national anthem was Richard Petty, the 82-year-old Hall of Fame driver, known as "The King." Wallace drives for Petty, who issued a scathing rebuke after the noose was found that called for the "sick person" to be expelled from NASCAR forever

— a move NASCAR President Steve Phelps insisted would happen should they be caught.

The race began with Martin Truex Jr. on the pole, and Tyler Reddick won the first stage, which ended in a weather caution that lasted 58-plus minutes.

The crowd had dwindled significantly from Sunday, when up to 5,000 fans were allowed into Talladega — only the second race with fans since NASCAR returned from the pandemic-forced shutdown. Workers painted "#1StandWithBubbaWallace" on the infield grass before the race.

In the stands, fan Luke Johnson said he is against the flag ban, saying: "All the NASCAR tracks need to keep on flying them."

As for the noose left for Wallace, he said: "I thought it was funny myself."

Another fan, Robert Chaisson, said he didn't have a strong opinion on the ban. He certainly did on what happened to Wallace.

"That was messed up. I hope they charge that guy with a hate crime," Chaisson, who lives in Alabama, Ala., said. "It doesn't matter what your opinion is, it's when you cross that line, then your opinion no longer matters."

The discovery at Sonoma, the biggest auto racing venue in the Bay Area, came before a noose was found in the garage of NASCAR driver Bubba Wallace on Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. Wallace is the only full-time Black driver in NASCAR.

Wallace has been a prominent activist in the sport and was instrumental in calling on NASCAR to ban Confederate flags at its events.

Scoreboard

GEICO 500
Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series
Monday
At Talladega Superspeedway
Talladega, Ala.
Lap length: 2.66 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

- (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 191 laps, 54 points.
- (20) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 191, 45.
- (15) Aric Almirola, Ford, 191, 34.
- (2) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 191, 33.
- (18) Erik Jones, Toyota, 191, 32.
- (21) Chris Buescher, Ford, 191, 33.
- (8) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 191, 29.
- (8) (22) John H. Nemechek, Ford, 191, 29.
- (9) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 191, 31.
- (5) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 191, 27.
- (19) William Byron, Chevrolet, 191, 28.
- (33) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 191, 25.
- (4) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 191, 31.
- (24) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 191, 27.
- (31) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 191, 27.
- (25) Corey Lajoie, Ford, 191, 21.
- (6) Joey Logano, Ford, 191, 33.
- (28) Michael McDowell, Ford, 191, 19.
- (6) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 191, 29.
- (20) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 191, 27.
- (39) Brendan Gaughan, Chevrolet, 191, 16.
- (22) Cole Custer, Ford, 191, 18.
- (21) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 191, 14.
- (14) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 191, 13.
- (10) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 190, 12.
- (26) (23) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 190, 11.
- (27) (32) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 190, 10.
- (8) (37) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 190, 9.
- (35) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 190, 9.
- (30) (29) Gray Gaulding, Ford, 190, 0.
- (30) (8) McLeod, Chevrolet, 190, 0.
- (32) (3) Busch, Toyota, 189, 19.
- (38) (23) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 185, 0.
- (4) (40) Garrett Smithy, Chevrolet, 185, 0.
- (35) (27) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, accident, 178, 2.
- (36) (4) J. Velez, Chevrolet, 178, 0.
- (37) (36) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, accident, 171, 0.
- (38) (11) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, accident, 136, 3.
- (39) (17) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, accident, 133, 1.
- (41) Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet, garage, 127, 1.

Race statistics
Race winner's average speed: 146.936 mph.

Race time: 3 hours, 27 minutes, 28 seconds.

Margin of victory: 0.007 seconds.

Caution flags: 8 for 33 laps.

Lead changes: 57 among 48 drivers.

Lap leaders: M. Truex 9-4; D. Hamlin 5-7; J. Logano 8-10; D. Hamlin 11-14; D. Hamlin 15-17; J. Logano 18-20; M. DiBenedetto 27; J. Logano 28-35; K. Busch 36; J. Logano 37-39; W. Byron 40; D. Hamlin 41-42; J. Logano 43; D. Hamlin 44-45; Bowman 46; J. Logano 47-49; A. Bowman 50; J. Logano 51; T. Reddick 52; J. Logano 53-55; T. Reddick 56-60; Newman 61; A. Bowman 62-64; R. Blaney 65; Johnson 66; K. Busch 67; R. Blaney 68-69; K. Busch 70; R. Blaney 71-73; K. Busch 74; R. Blaney 75-76; B. Poole 77-78; R. Blaney 79-81; R. Stenhouse 112; R. Blaney 113-118; R. Stenhouse 119-121; C. Buescher 122; K. Harvick 123; P. Reddick 127; C. Elliott 128-130; D. Hamlin 131-132; K. Busch 133-134; K. Busch 135; D. Hamlin 147; J. Logano 148-150; W. Byron 151-160; B. Wallace 161; J. Logano 162; P. Reddick 163; C. Buescher 164; R. Blaney 165-171; T. Reddick 172-184; R. Blaney 185-189; K. Busch 190; R. Blaney 191.

Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): J. Logano, 63 laps; J. Logano, 11 times for 33 laps; T. Reddick, 3 times for 19 laps; D. Hamlin, 7 times for 18 laps; K. Busch, 4 times for 12 laps; W. Byron, 2 times for 11 laps; R. Stenhouse, 18 times for 5 laps; K. Busch, 4 times for 5 laps; C. Buescher, 1 time for 4 laps; M. Truex, 1 time for 4 laps; P. Reddick, 2 times for 3 laps; C. Elliott, 1 time for 3 laps; K. Harvick, 2 times for 2 laps; Johnson, 1 time for 1 lap; B. Wallace, 1 time for 1 lap; R. Newman, 1 time for 1 lap; R. Blaney, 1 time for 1 lap; B. Poole, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: D. Hamlin, 3; K. Harvick, 2; J. Logano, 1; Keselowski, 2; B. Blaney, 1; Elliott, 1; M. Truex, 1; A. Bowman, 1; Johnson, 1; C. Buescher, 1; J. Logano, 467; R. Blaney, 465; C. Elliott, 486; W. Byron, 487; K. Busch, 488; A. Bowman, 489; K. Busch, 378; 10. K. Busch, 369; 11. Johnson, 378; 12. A. Almirola, 377; 13. C. Bowyer, 378; 14. W. Byron, 379; 15. M. DiBenedetto, 312; 16. T. Reddick, 306.

Sonoma Raceway president says noose found in tree

Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — A makeshift noose found hanging from a tree at the Sonoma Raceway in California and officials said they are investigating the incident.

Raceway President Steve Page said a "piece of twine tied in what appeared to be a noose" was found hanging from a tree Saturday be-

hind a former administrative office, news outlets reported.

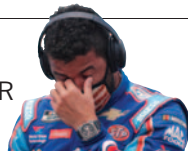
Page said the incident was under investigation by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. He also said he has asked staff and on-site business tenants to share any information or "any possible alternative explanation."

Sonoma was closed over the weekend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

SPORTS

Backing Bubba

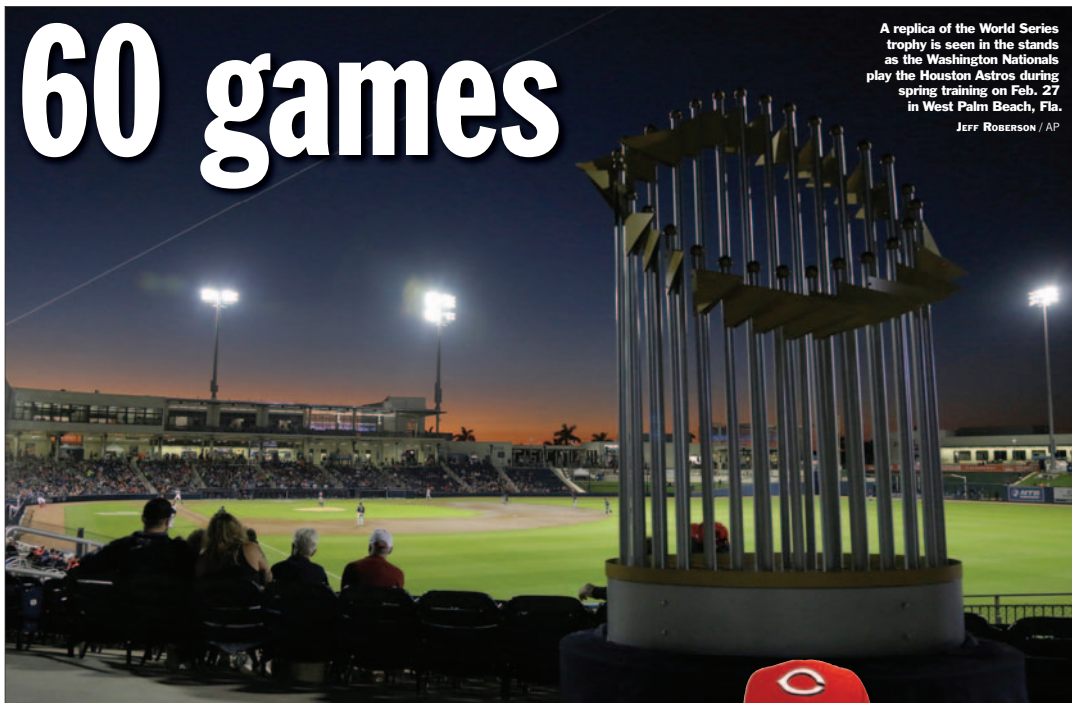
Wallace overcome as NASCAR stands behind him » Page 23



60 games

A replica of the World Series trophy is seen in the stands as the Washington Nationals play the Houston Astros during spring training on Feb. 27 in West Palm Beach, Fla.

JEFF ROBERSON / AP



MLB goes forward with plan for shortest slate since 1878

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball plans to unilaterally issue a 60-game schedule for its shortest season since 1878 after the players' association rejected a negotiated deal of the same length, putting the sport on track for a combative return to the field amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and union head Tony Clark met last week and out-

lined plans that included expanding the playoffs from 10 teams to 16, widening use of the designated hitter to National League games and an experiment to start extra innings with a runner on second base. But the latest version of the deal proposed by MLB was rejected by the Major League Baseball Players Association's executive board in a 33-5 vote on Monday.

Those innovations now disappear.

"Needless to say, we are disappointed by this development," MLB said in a

statement. "The framework provided an opportunity for MLB and its players to work together to confront the difficulties and challenges presented by the pandemic. It gave our fans the chance to see an exciting new postseason format. And, it offered players significant benefits."

MLB's control owners approved going unilaterally

SEE PLAN ON PAGE 21

'We're driving the bus straight off a cliff. How is this good for anyone involved? Covid 19 already presented a lose lose lose situation and we've somehow found a way to make it worse. Incredible.'

Trevor Bauer

Cincinnati Reds pitcher in a tweet Monday criticizing owners and the players' union



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Tennis' Djokovic tests positive for COVID-19 » Page 20

